

FRIDAY 19 JULY 2013

JUSTICE PRECINCT OFFICES
160 MARSDEN STREET
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150**MEDIA STATEMENT****Helicopter escapee refused parole**

A man convicted for armed bank robberies and a helicopter escape from Silverwater Correctional Complex in 1999 will remain in prison after being refused parole.

The State Parole Authority (SPA) refused to release John Killick at a public hearing held at Parramatta today.

Authority members agreed with a submission opposing parole from Corrective Services NSW Commissioner Peter Severin that Killick needed to undertake graduated external leave before his full-time release into the community.

Killick, now 71, has served more than 14 years in prison since his recapture. His maximum term is due to expire in September 2022.

SPA previously heard Commissioner Severin's submission at a March public hearing in which he recommended Killick undertake supervised day and weekend leave.

The Authority today agreed it was in the public interest for Killick to have a graduated release from prison so it could assess his likelihood of successfully adapting to normal lawful community life.

Killick escaped from Silverwater's Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre on 25 March 1999 after his girlfriend hijacked a helicopter during a joy flight from Bankstown Airport. Both were recaptured a few weeks later.

He was convicted of two counts of armed robbery with a dangerous weapon, discharging a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence, escaping lawful custody, assault, detaining for advantage and stealing a motor vehicle.

Killick will next be considered for parole in 2014.

Media inquiries: 0419 258 290