

Friday 21 August, 2020

Justice Precinct Offices  
160 Marsden Street  
Parramatta NSW 2150

## SPA RESERVES DECISION FOR DOUGLAS WADE

***NB: There is a Non-Publication Order on the victim's name, or any other name or information capable of identifying her.***

The State Parole Authority today reserved its decision regarding parole for offender Douglas Wade.

At a public review hearing today, the SPA heard evidence from the offender and additional submissions from his solicitor and the Crown Solicitor, representing the State.

The State's submission opposed parole.

In 1989, the offender was sentenced to life for the murder of a child and 10 years for the sexual assault of the same child.

In 2013, the Court of Criminal Appeal re-determined the offender's murder sentence from life to 36 years, with a non-parole period of 26 years.

As a result of the redetermination of sentence, the offender became eligible for parole in August 2014.

The SPA refused parole in 2014 and 2015 and in subsequent years, the offender either declined to be considered, or withdrew his application for parole.

In considering this latest application for parole the SPA was advised by the Serious Offenders Review Council that release on parole at this time was appropriate.

The SPA was told the offender has been classified as a minimum security inmate since 2016 and has participated in electronically monitored escorted works release and supervised external leave, without incident.

External leave for all prisoners was suspended in March due to COVID-19.

The SPA panel was told the offender has completed all available therapeutic programs in custody to address his offending behavior and will continue treatment should he be released on parole.

The SPA noted if it were to grant parole, the offender would be subject to several stringent conditions and supervision, including electronic monitoring with schedules.

Other conditions would include that he comply with exclusion zones of the Snowy Valley, Yass Valley and Queanbeyan-Palerang regional LGAs; he must not be in the company of any person under 18 years without a responsible adult and must obey all conditions and requirements of the Child Protection Register .

After hearing the evidence, the SPA panel reserved its decision to a later date.

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