

THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2012

JUSTICE PRECINCT OFFICES
160 MARSDEN STREET
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150**MEDIA STATEMENT****Rapist Woods to remain in custody**

A man jailed for life for the repeated rape and attempted murder of a woman near Newcastle in the mid-1980s today had his parole revocation upheld.

Mark Terrence Woods, 48, robbed and sexually assaulted the woman at her Cooks Hill home in December 1986 before forcing her into the boot of her car and driving her to a secluded area at Merewether Heights.

There he sexually assaulted the woman again, locked her in the boot of her car and set the vehicle alight. Woods then stabbed her repeatedly when she tried to escape.

Woods had served over 24 years of his maximum life sentence before the State Parole Authority (SPA) approved his release on strictly-supervised parole in May last year.

SPA granted parole after considering advice from the Probation and Parole Service and the Serious Offenders Review Council supporting his conditional release.

Woods' strict conditions included electronic monitoring, totally abstaining from alcohol, not using or possessing prohibited drugs, undertaking alcohol testing, undergoing psychological and psychiatric counselling and not contacting his victim.

Probation and Parole officers also made regular scheduled and unannounced visits and conducted numerous random breath tests on Woods. In addition to tight supervision, his psychological management was regularly adjusted as appropriate while in the community.

SPA revoked Woods' parole in October this year for failing to adapt to normal lawful community life and for drinking alcohol in breach of his Orders.

The State Parole Authority today confirmed Woods' parole revocation after he chose not to contest the decision.

Woods will remain in custody serving his life sentence until his next annual parole review hearing in October next year.

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