SUMMARY

Date considered: 17 August 2022

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 14 years.

Test for release

2. Before it could direct release, the Board had to be satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the offender should be confined.

Decision

3. The Board was satisfied on this matter, and directed release subject to licence conditions.

Reasons for decision

4. In reaching its decision, the Board considered:

   a) the circumstances of the index offence, and any offending history;
   b) formal risk assessments prepared on the offender;
   c) the offender's conduct since sentence, and intentions if released;
   d) all relevant information in the dossier; and
   e) the evidence heard at the hearing.

5. The offender is now almost 8 years over the punishment part of their life sentence. The offender has previously been returned from the National Top End to closed conditions on a number of occasions. Since their arrival at the National Top End this year, the offender has complied fully with the prison regime and is respectful to staff raising no concerns.

6. The offender evidenced a good insight into the difficulties and challenges they have encountered during their sentence.

7. Over the years, the offender has accessed the community via special escorted leaves and work placements. With the exception of one occasion, all have passed without incident. The offender has not involved themselves in any incidents of violence since 2010. Both the prison based and the community based social workers were clear in their evidence that the public will be protected if the offender is released.

8. A robust support package and risk management plan is in place for the offender and they are highly motivated to comply.

9. The Tribunal have applied anxious scrutiny in considering the offenders release and concur with the views expressed by both social workers. Accordingly, the offenders release is directed subject to licence conditions.