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**Abstract** –

In remote Northwest Australia stands an old building with a dark history. Roebourne Old Gaol (1884-1984) was a major prison for the Pilbara region. To clear the land for gold-seekers and mining companies, Aboriginal people were criminalised under foreign laws. They walked 100s of km across desert, in chains, to spend years locked up in the small gaol. 3/4 had speared cattle, facing up to 6 years. Inside, they were crowded together in sweltering conditions and even chained to the walls.

Today, the Pilbara bring in 1/3 of Australia's total GDP and huge mining trucks rumble past the Old Gaol. The local Aboriginal inhabitants remain locked out of much of the wealth extracted from their Country. Roebourne’s new prison is 95% Aboriginal and has no air-conditioning despite reaching 50.5°C last summer. Western Australia has the highest rate of incarceration of Indigenous people in the country – 16x higher than other groups.