



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Citizenship
Minister for Regulatory Reform

Court network win for Western Sydney as part of the 2010-11 NSW budget

Release date: 8th June 2010

Residents across Western Sydney are set to benefit from newly improved justice services as the Keneally Government invests in building and refurbishing courthouses and facilities across major city centres, NSW Attorney General, John Hatzistergos announced today.

Mr Hatzistergos today said that Liverpool Courthouse will undergo a \$5 million renovation with construction to begin next year as part of a raft of improvements for Western Sydney's court network outlined in the 2010-11 Budget.

"The NSW Government recognises that Western Sydney's population is booming and investment in projects like the Liverpool Courthouse ensures the area has high quality court facilities to support its growth," Mr Hatzistergos said.

Mr Hatzistergos said the project, which has received \$1.5 million in funding in this year's Budget, will be completed in early 2012 and will include:

- Relocating the Sheriff's Office into the main registry area to help ensure quick responses to security incidents;
- Accessibility improvements including a new lift;
- Enabling courtrooms to access JusticeLink, an online case management system used by the Supreme, District and Local Courts;
- An air conditioning upgrade; and
- A new van dock for Corrective Services vehicles.

The NSW Budget 2010/11 has delivered a total of \$1.8 million for improvements to Western Sydney's court network, with facilities to be renovated at Liverpool, Blacktown, Parramatta and Mount Druitt.

The court registries at Liverpool, Blacktown and Mt Druitt will be redesigned to make services faster and easier to access. The new-look registries will include a public computer terminal, allowing court users to browse legal information online, and a private consultation room for lengthy enquiries.

"The registries will have a split-level counter, providing easy access for people using a wheelchair," Mr Hatzistergos said.

The Children's Court at Parramatta will receive an additional courtroom and an area for mediation.

"The mediation facility at Parramatta will enable more cases involving vulnerable children to be resolved through alternative dispute resolution, which was one of the key recommendations of the Wood Report into Child Protection," Mr Hatzistergos said.

Forum Sentencing, which gives victims a say in the sentencing of offenders, will continue to grow in Sydney's west and south west, with the program to be rolled out in Bankstown in 2010-11.

Mr Hatzistergos said the Budget also provides \$1 million for a Graffiti Hotspot program that will focus on 10 locations in NSW, including Blacktown, Campbelltown and Penrith.

"The program will improve the environmental design of locations that have been repeatedly targeted by vandals and make them more resistant to graffiti," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"The changes could include improved lighting and 'green screening', in which vegetation is planted near a wall to act as a barrier to graffiti."