

MEDIA RELEASE

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

NSW Attorney General, John Hatzistergos today toured Lismore Courthouse to inspect refurbishment projects taking place as part of the Keneally Government's \$2 million upgrade to the building.

Mr Hatzistergos recently announced the building project would receive \$1 million as part of this year's 09/10 budget, bringing the total amount of works to \$2.05 million.

"Lismore has one of the state's busiest regional courthouses and it is important for the building to be able to meet the legal needs of the community," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"This is the largest upgrade to the building since it was expanded almost 20 years ago and will ensure this courthouse is technologically advanced," he said.

Mr Hatzistergos said that one of the main focuses of the upgrade is a new court registry that will make services simpler, faster and easier to access.

"Walking into a courthouse can be quite a daunting experience so it's important that people can easily access legal information and obtain assistance."

"The new registry will include a public computer terminal to enable court users to browse legal information on the internet, while display boards will contain details about legal resources and support services," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"The registry will also have a large split-level counter, that will cater for people who need to use a wheelchair or who need to sit down during their inquiry.

"The renovations will also include the installation of a new lift and other accessibility improvements, ensuring people with a disability can move through the court with dignity and are able to sit on juries in District Court trials," Mr Hatzistergos said.

Other features of the project will include:

- An air conditioning upgrade including major new components;
- Improving security by relocating the Sheriff's Office to the registry; and
- Improvements to the fire and life safety systems.

The renovations are due to be completed early next year.

Meanwhile, a \$171,500 upgrade of the Local and District Court's audio-visual systems and remote witness room has been completed.