



MEDIA RELEASE

**Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Justice
Minister for Industrial Relations**

Friday, November 21, 2008

\$4 MILLION DUBBO COURTHOUSE FACELIFT COMPLETED

The largest upgrade of Dubbo Courthouse in more than a quarter of a century has been completed on budget and on schedule, NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced today.

Mr Hatzistergos and Independent Dubbo MP Dawn Fardell will today attend a ceremony to officially open the \$4.1 million courthouse extensions.

“The expanded courthouse is more secure, more technologically advanced and more accessible to people with disabilities,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

A portable X-ray machine and metal detector will enable Sheriff’s Officers to scan court users when necessary and a new six-cell complex features separate facilities for juvenile prisoners to prevent them mixing with adult prisoners.

“The new facilities and equipment allow Sheriff’s Officers to increase security at the courthouse at short notice if a risk is detected,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

Mr Hatzistergos said improved jury facilities, including a large and well-equipped new assembly room, will enable people with a disability to serve as jurors in trials at the courthouse.

“The assembly room is in a secure section of the courthouse, which will reduce the risk of jurors coming into contact with witnesses or defendants,” said Mr Hatzistergos.

He said the courthouse registry has undergone a major overhaul, based on a new design that aims to make services simpler, faster and easier to access.

“The lower registry counter is designed for people using a wheelchair or who may be more comfortable sitting down, such as pregnant women,” said Mr Hatzistergos.

Mr Hatzistergos congratulated Dubbo firm Rawson Constructions on its timely and professional completion of the courthouse upgrade.