



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$4 M FOR STAGE ONE OF SYDNEY COURT REDEVELOPMENT

A major redevelopment of the John Maddison Tower (JMT) court complex will begin today, with NSW Attorney General Greg Smith SC announcing details of a \$4.34 million contract for stage one of the project.

The first stage will involve a redevelopment of two-and-a-half floors of John Maddison Tower to provide the Dust Diseases Tribunal and the Administrative Decisions Tribunal (ADT) with state-of-the-art headquarters," Mr Smith said.

The new facilities include courtrooms, tribunal rooms, registries, interview rooms, chambers and offices as well as video-link technology and additional security.

"The Dust Diseases Tribunal will also have a sick room for seriously ill plaintiffs and a large witness box to enable multiple experts to take the stand together and give concurrent evidence - a practice known as 'hot tubbing'," Mr Smith said.

"Hot tubbing allows expert witnesses to discuss their evidence and eliminate or narrow issues in dispute, which can reduce the length and cost of a hearing."

The contract for stage one of the redevelopment has been awarded to Donnelley Constructions. The Sydney company is expected to complete the project within three months. Court sittings will not be affected.

The Administrative Decisions Tribunal, currently located in the St James Centre in Sydney's CBD, will relocate to Level 10 of John Maddison Tower by September. The Dust Diseases Tribunal will move from Level 4 of John Maddison Tower to Levels 11 and 12 by September.

Mr Smith said John Maddison Tower would undergo further renovations in 2012 and the adjoining Downing Centre court complex would also be subject to improvements later this year and in 2012.

"Architects will be appointed shortly to design the upcoming projects, which will include a new civil registry and new jury rooms for the Downing Centre," he said.

The redevelopment of John Maddison Tower and the Downing Centre is expected to cost \$26.5 million over five years.