



# Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General  
Minister for Justice

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **DA SUBMITTED FOR \$73M COFFS HARBOUR JUSTICE PRECINCT**

A development application for the \$73 million Coffs Harbour Justice Precinct has been submitted to council, NSW Attorney General Greg Smith SC, Police Minister Mike Gallacher, and Member for Coffs Harbour Andrew Fraser announced today.

Mr Fraser said the Justice Precinct, to be located on the corner of Beryl Street and the Pacific Highway, would be a significant complex for Coffs Harbour.

"When people travel through the Coffs Harbour CBD they will see modern and sophisticated justice buildings that befit a major regional centre experiencing significant population growth, Mr Fraser said.

Mr Smith acknowledged that Coffs Harbour had been calling for a new courthouse and police station for many years. "The wait is almost over," he said.

Mr Gallacher also welcomed the progress.

"The submission of the development application is the project's most important milestone to date, with the building designs giving the community an insight into the future of justice in this city,"

Set over five levels, the new courthouse will be 50 per cent larger than the existing courthouse. It will include two local courts, two district courts and a multipurpose room that could be utilised for tribunal hearings and mediations.

"Featuring large LCD screens, the courts will be able to display exhibits in high definition, receive testimony from off-site witnesses and hear bail applications made from prisons," Mr Smith said.

"Victims of sexual assault will be able to give evidence 'in camera' from a private room within the courthouse, which will spare them the trauma of coming face-to-face with their alleged attacker."

Mr Smith said the courthouse would have an abundance of interview and conference rooms for the legal profession and support services.

"Every participant in the court process will find the new facilities infinitely superior to what is on offer at the existing courthouse," Mr Smith said.

The courthouse will be protected by airport-style perimeter security and will share a cells complex with the new police station.

Mr Gallacher said the new police station will ensure Coffs Harbour meets local operational needs now and into the future.

"The new Local Area Command facility will have modern forensic, custodial and cell facilities that are required," Mr Gallacher said.

Both buildings will be accessible to people with a disability and include environmentally friendly design features to minimise energy and water use.

The justice precinct will also include a kiosk, pathways to link the buildings and extensive landscaping.

Mr Fraser said the facilities were long overdue.

"I have been waiting for this project to commence for over 16 years," he said.

"The last time it was mooted was when the Coalition was last in Government, so it's nice to have a Government that is getting on with the job.

"This new complex will alleviate the cramped and outdated conditions of the current Police Station and Court House and will ease the stressful working condition that the staff currently working under."

Construction of the Justice Precinct will begin in early 2013 with a scheduled completion date of mid-2015. Images are available on request.