



Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

4 December 2012

ARCHITECTS FOR \$15 MILLION WOLLONGONG UPGRADE

Attorney General Greg Smith SC today announced the appointment of architects to design the \$15 million renovation of Wollongong Courthouse.

“Jackson Teece Chesterman will draw the plans for the project, which will improve court security and provide better facilities for juries, people with a disability, the legal profession and staff,” Mr Smith said.

A new registry will provide simpler, faster and easier access to court services. Court users will be able to browse legal resources online at the registry’s computer kiosk, while information boards will contain details of support services and common legal procedures.

“The new registry will have a split-level counter, with the lower level to be utilised by people with a disability, as well as a separate room for private or lengthy enquiries,” Mr Smith said.

The original entrance to the building will be re-opened and will include a lift and handrails. The layout of the courthouse will also be modified to reduce the risk of prisoners coming into contact with victims of crime and members of the public.

Other features of the upgrade will include:

- a new callover court;
- additional interview rooms for the legal profession (existing rooms will be renovated);
- improved jury assembly and deliberation rooms; and
- improved fire safety facilities.

Jackson Teece Chesterman, an Australian company with more than 40 years of experience in architecture, is expected to deliver its design by the end of the year. Construction is set to begin in the second half of 2013.

Mr Smith said the project was the latest stage in the ongoing improvement of Wollongong Courthouse.

“More than 9000 local, district and Supreme Court matters are lodged in Wollongong each year and the NSW Government recognises the pivotal role the city’s courthouse plays in the NSW justice system,” Mr Smith said.

In recent years, the courthouse has received an upgrade of Audio Visual Link (AVL) and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) facilities. The court's historic clock tower has also been restored.