



Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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MANLY COURT TO RECEIVE \$2.5 M UPGRADE

Manly Courthouse will undergo a \$2.5 million renovation, Attorney General Greg Smith SC announced today.

“The upgrade of the courthouse will improve facilities for all court users, including people with a disability, the legal profession, victims of crime and support services,” Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith said the installation of Audio Visual Link (AVL) technology would enable the court to hear evidence from witnesses who are interstate or overseas and bail applications made from prisons.

“The increasing use of AVL across NSW is reducing the need to transport prisoners to court which creates a safer environment and saves taxpayers millions of dollars,” Mr Smith said.

A safe room for domestic violence victims will be refurbished and made more secure, while the public waiting area and rooms for the legal profession will be improved and expanded.

Mr Smith said a new registry would make court services easier to access.

“The registry will include a public computer kiosk and information boards containing booklets on common legal procedures and support services,” Mr Smith said.

“The registry will also 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.”

The courthouse will be closed from 24 December until the renovation is completed in late 2013.

During the renovations, Manly Local Court matters will be transferred to North Sydney and other Sydney courts.

Mr Smith said the short-term inconvenience would be offset by long-term benefits.

“Manly has one of the busiest courthouses in suburban Sydney and the building is in need of a makeover to ensure it can continue to meet the needs of the community,” Mr Smith said.

“This will be the most significant upgrade the courthouse has received in more than 20 years.”

In 2005-06, the Department of Attorney General and Justice began a 10-year court upgrade program of more than 100 facilities across NSW. The Manly Courthouse was listed as one of the buildings that would be renovated over the course of the \$250 million program.