



Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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MAJOR STEP FORWARD FOR WAGGA COURT REDEVELOPMENT

NSW Attorney General Greg Smith SC and Member for Wagga Wagga Daryl Maguire today announced the appointment of architects to design the \$17 million redevelopment of Wagga Wagga Courthouse.

Mr Smith said Tanner Architects, an Australian practice with 35 years of experience, would begin working on the project immediately.

“A team of architects is reviewing a masterplan and will start detailed design work within weeks on what will be the largest expansion of the courthouse in its 110 year history,” Mr Smith said.

The architectural plans and the development application process will be completed by mid next year, with construction work to begin in the second half of 2013.

“Building onto the site of the old Police Station adjacent to the courthouse, the redevelopment will deliver better facilities for victims of crime, the legal profession, the judiciary and members of the public,” Mr Smith said.

“The expanded courthouse will be more technologically advanced and will be protected by airport-style perimeter security.”

The redevelopment will include:

- three new courtrooms, including two capable of hosting jury trials;
- a new registry;
- additional interview rooms for the legal profession;
- additional Audio Visual Link facilities;
- a new safe room for victims of domestic violence; and
- improved access for people with a disability.

Mr Maguire said the redevelopment would enable the courthouse to keep pace with the city’s growth.

“This is a sign not just of Wagga Wagga’s status as the state’s largest inland city with a growing population, but a sign of the O’Farrell government’s commitment to development in the regions.”

“The courthouse is the result of a dedicated campaign by hard working local MPs,” Mr Maguire said.

“The last substantial upgrade was in the 1990s, and the redevelopment will make the courthouse more comfortable for all users and will help to improve the efficiency of the justice system.”

The project will preserve the heritage value of the courthouse and the new facilities will be designed to minimise the building’s carbon footprint.

The project is due for completion in 2014.