



Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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LOCAL CONSTRUCTION TEAM TO BUILD NEWCASTLE COURT

The Newcastle branch of construction giant John Holland will build the \$94 million Newcastle Courthouse, with the project to deliver a major boost for the local economy, Attorney General Greg Smith and Member for Newcastle Tim Owen announced today.

“The seven storey, 12,000 square metre building will be the largest and most technologically advanced NSW court complex outside of Sydney and will significantly improve the Hunter region’s access to justice,” Mr Smith said.

Mr Owen said he was delighted that the courthouse would be built by the Newcastle community for the Newcastle community.

“John Holland has been working in Newcastle for 20 years and will utilise local labour during construction of the courthouse,” Mr Owen said.

“The building façade will also incorporate the designs of local artists.”

Located on the Burwood Wedge site, the high security building will include 10 courtrooms and two tribunal rooms and will host sittings of the Supreme, District, Local and Drug Courts.

The courthouse, which will be accessible to people with a disability, will also accommodate:

- holding cells;
- jury assembly and deliberation areas;
- legal interview rooms;
- facilities for victims of crime and support groups;
- a Sheriff’s Office;
- a state-of-the-art registry; and
- judicial chambers.

Solar panels, energy efficient air conditioning and the use of natural light will minimise the building’s carbon footprint.

“The extensive use of glass on the building’s façade will create an atmosphere of openness, reflecting the manner in which justice is administered in NSW,” Mr Smith said.

Construction of the courthouse will begin next month, following the completion of mine rectification work on the site.