MEDIA RELEASE
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NEWCASTLE COURTHOUSE ONE STEP CLOSER TO COMPLETION

The $89.7 million Newcastle Courthouse is one step closer to completion with the seven-storey 12,000 square metre courthouse reaching its highest point this week.

“We are now on track to finish one of the state’s largest justice construction projects by mid-2015,” NSW Attorney General Brad Hazzard announced today.

“Since building started last year, the complex has delivered a major boost to the local economy.

“The project has been built by the Newcastle community for the Newcastle community, with more than 700 people from the Hunter being employed during the construction process so far, with a further 500 locals expected on site before it’s completed.

“The final stage of the project will involve the construction of the external facade, roof, internal fit-out including walls, ceilings, joinery, carpet, painting and building services.

“Once open, the complex will be one of the state’s biggest and most technologically advanced court facility outside Sydney greatly improving the region’s access to justice.”

The high security courthouse will have 10 state-of-the-art courtrooms and two tribunal rooms that can host Local, District and Supreme Court hearings.

One of the courtrooms will be large enough to cater for trials with 10 defendants and a jury panel of up to 15 members.

Other major features of the courthouse include:

- Disability access, 14 holding cells; jury assembly and deliberation areas, legal interview rooms and facilities for victims of crime and support groups;
- a state-of-the-art registry;
- solar panels, energy efficient air conditioning and the use of natural light to minimise the building’s carbon footprint;
- extensive use of glass on the building’s façade including work by local artists; and

“Newcastle is one of the fastest growing regions in NSW, which is why we are delivering a contemporary court complex to meet the demands of future generations,” Mr Hazzard said.

Timelapse video of Newcastle Courthouse under construction.