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MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 22 June 2015

\$300,000 TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE AT BEGA COURTHOUSE

The NSW Government is investing more than \$300,000 in better technology at Bega Courthouse to make access to justice faster and easier.

NSW Attorney General Gabrielle Upton and Bega MP Andrew Constance today announced the courthouse will receive high definition Audio Visual Link technology by the end of the year to allow it to hear remote witness testimonies and bail applications.

“By harnessing better technology, we are making access to justice faster and easier in our courts. This upgrade will help bring Bega Courthouse into the 21st century, and give the community the facilities they need and deserve,” Ms Upton said.

Mr Constance said high definition Audio Visual Link technology will be introduced in all three courtrooms.

“This great news for the local community. It will help ensure Bega Courthouse has Audio Visual Link technology that is on par with the rest of the State,” Mr Constance said.

“Importantly, the remote witness room will be upgraded so it is digitally connected to the courtrooms at Bega and other courts across the State.

“The remote witness room is a private and secure area where vulnerable witnesses give ‘in camera’ evidence to the court which reduces the stress and trauma of taking part in the justice system.

“When it’s not being used by vulnerable witnesses, the room can be utilised by other witnesses to testify at courts in various locations across NSW.”

New digital evidence technology which includes a document camera and laptop will be used to project exhibits onto high definition screens to allow all court users to view exhibits simultaneously and make it possible to scrutinise minute details.

In addition, new technology will also be installed for the first time in the court’s jury deliberation room to allow jurors to view evidence from dedicated laptops and on high definition screens to help them make their determinations.