



MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL VISITS \$90 MILLION NEWCASTLE COURTHOUSE

NSW Attorney General Gabrielle Upton today visited the \$90 million Newcastle Courthouse which is on track to be completed by October 2015.

Ms Upton inspected the seven-storey, 12,000 square metre courthouse to mark the final stage of the project.

“I’m delighted to be in Newcastle to see how work on the courthouse is progressing and to meet the project team who are working hard to deliver this project by September,” Ms Upton said.

“The courthouse is one of the largest justice projects carried out in this state and it will significantly improve court services for everyone in the Hunter region.

“Importantly, construction has delivered an important boost to the local economy. Since building began in January 2013, the project has employed more than 1200 people – with the majority from the local area. A further 200 workers are expected to be on site before the project is completed.

“The final stage of the project will involve the completion of the façade, now well underway, internal walls, ceiling linings, carpets, flooring, workstations, timber joinery and panelling in the courtrooms, and the installation of air-conditioning, audio-visual technology, fire safety and security systems.”

Ms Upton added the complex will be the largest and most technologically advanced facility outside Sydney, with 10 state-of-the-art courtrooms and two tribunal rooms that can host Local, District and Supreme Court hearings.

Other major features of the courthouse include:

- 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
- disability access.

The courthouse is expected to conduct its first sittings in early October 2015.