



Andrew Fraser MP

Assistant Speaker

Member for Coffs Harbour

MEDIA RELEASE

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WORLD CLASS COFFS HARBOUR COURT UNVEILED

The Coffs Harbour Courthouse has raised the benchmark for justice facilities in regional NSW, Member for Coffs Harbour Andrew Fraser announced today.

Today Mr Fraser officially opened the four-storey courthouse at the \$73 million Coffs Harbour Justice Precinct with NSW Attorney General Brad Hazzard.

“This courthouse is 50 per cent larger than the old courthouse and is packed with technology that rivals anything you’d see in any capital city,” Mr Fraser said.

“With five courtrooms, it will host District and Supreme Court jury trials; Local Court, Federal Circuit Court, Industrial Relations Commission, Fair Work Commission and NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal hearings; and mediations.

“All courtrooms have LCD screens to broadcast bail applications made from prisons and testimony from offsite witnesses,” Mr Fraser said.

Mr Hazzard said the courthouse design will reduce contact between victims of violent crime and offenders.

“Victims of sexual assault can be chaperoned into the courthouse via a private entrance and give video evidence from a secure room,” Mr Hazzard said.

The courthouse, which is fully accessible to people with a disability, also features:

- jury assembly and deliberation rooms;
- a large public waiting area with electronic screens to display case information and a computer kiosk for browsing legal information online;
- 15 interview rooms, including one with videoconferencing facilities so lawyers can seek instructions from clients in prison; and
- offices for NSW Legal Aid, the NSW Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the court liaison officer for the Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network.

Mr Fraser said the construction of the precinct had injected millions of dollars into the local economy and provided over 600 local jobs.

“Built by the community, for the community, the precinct’s state-of-the art courthouse and police station will meet the justice needs of Coffs Harbour and surrounding areas for generations to come,” Mr Fraser said.