

Question on Notice

No. 256

Asked on Thursday, 10 March 2011

MR SHINE asked the Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State (MR LUCAS)–

QUESTION:

Will the Deputy Premier advise of progress made with respect to refurbishments and improvements to the Toowoomba Courthouse, indicating the extent of such work and the expected benefit there from?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Toowoomba North for his question.

I had the pleasure of opening the refurbishment of the Toowoomba Courthouse on Sunday 13 March 2011.

This \$10.4 million project was completed on time and on budget and created 80 jobs for the Toowoomba area.

The original courthouse was built in the 1970's and has been virtually unchanged since that date.

These refurbishments will provide the local community with contemporary justice facilities now and well into the future.

Features of the refurbishment include major improvements to public facilities including new domestic violence support rooms, enlarged public and jury waiting areas, a redesigned and enlarged public entrance and a new marriage room.

Courtrooms were also improved with enlargement of one courtroom and refurbishment of three other courtrooms including the introduction of natural light.

Security was upgraded with installation of two prisoner lifts to allow safe movement of prisoners from the adjacent watchhouse and a new security console and access system.

In addition, staff areas were improved with a new registry, accommodation for judicial officers and Director of Public Prosecutions staff.

Building electrical, air-conditioning and other systems were also upgraded.

This contemporary courthouse is an excellent example of how the Bligh Government's investment in a fairer, more responsive and contemporary justice

system can make a very real difference where it matters most – local communities across the state.