

Question on Notice

No. 900

Asked on 14 June 2011

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Nambour Court House—

Will the Minister investigate the proposal to upgrade the court house so that a Magistrate would sit permanently in Nambour and stop the referral of Magistrates Court matters to the Maroochydore Magistrates Court?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Nicklin for his question.

I can appreciate the Member's request in seeking a locally based Magistrate for Nambour but am advised that the regional coordinating Magistrate has the responsibility for allocating court matters.

General court call-overs are held at the Nambour Courthouse twice a month, with a further one day a month allocated for domestic violence and Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal matters. Matters are presided over by a circuit magistrate from the Maroochydore Courthouse and are being set for hearing at that centre.

This Government has been very responsive in providing new courthouses and refurbishing older courthouses when a clear need arises. Resources may be reallocated to the Nambour Courthouse if the co-ordinating Magistrate determines that more hearings should be listed at that centre.

The Sunshine Coast region is currently well serviced by courthouses at Maroochydore, Noosa, Nambour and Caloundra.

The Maroochydore Courthouse remains the main centre for hearing court cases, while the Caloundra courthouse has the capacity to deal with an increased caseload at the southern end of the Sunshine Coast.

The population in the Nambour area is expected to increase, and the current court facilities in the region are expected to be adequate for at least a further five years.

The people of Nambour can be confident that the Nambour Courthouse will continue to deliver excellent services to their community.