



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

1 July 2011

COUNCIL APPROVES DA FOR NEW ARMIDALE COURT

Construction will begin on a new Armidale Courthouse within six months, after Armidale Dumaresq Council approved a development application for the three-storey building, NSW Attorney General Greg Smith announced today.

“The \$15 million project will provide Armidale with a courthouse that will be significantly larger, more secure and better equipped than the city’s existing courthouse, which is more than 150 years old,” Mr Smith said.

The new 1750m² courthouse will be located on Moore Street, adjacent to Armidale Police Station. The complex will include a local court, a jury court and a multipurpose room that could be used as a court to hear short administrative matters or to assemble jurors. There will also be two jury deliberation rooms.

Mr Smith said the new complex would provide ample facilities for victims of crime, the legal profession and other court users.

“Domestic violence victims will have access to a private, secure and comfortable area as they wait to be called into court,” Mr Smith said.

“The courthouse will also include at least seven interview rooms for the legal profession, including some non-contact rooms for lawyers meeting with potentially dangerous clients.”

Mr Smith said prisoners would be transferred from the police station to the courthouse via a secure passageway.

“Providing a direct link between the police station and the court will minimise prisoner contact with the public and reduce the risk of escapes,” Mr Smith said.

The registry at the new courthouse will make services easier to access and will include:

- a computer kiosk to enable court users to browse legal resources on the internet;
- information boards with brochures on useful legal resources and support services;
- a split-level enquiries counter to provide easy access to people in a wheelchair; and,
- a separate room for lengthy or private transactions.

A secure car park for judicial officers and departmental vehicles will be located in the basement of the courthouse, courtrooms will be located on the ground floor, while the top floor will be used for administrative purposes and to provide chambers for judicial officers.

The new Armidale Courthouse is due for completion by March 2013.