

Funding stimulus for regional NSW court upgrades

Factsheet – May 2020



The NSW Government is delivering a \$9 million funding boost to fast-track new infrastructure projects at 65 courts and corrections facilities across regional NSW.

These projects will help to create jobs, support local business and assist communities as they build their recovery from the impacts of COVID-19, drought and bushfires.

The funding will deliver a boost for the justice system and provide employment and income for local workers in trade industries.

What upgrades and improvements will be delivered with the funding?

The economic stimulus package will deliver a range of infrastructure projects at regional and rural locations that have been impacted by COVID-19, drought and bushfires.

The projects will include upgrades to court fire safety systems, general maintenance, security improvements and structural repairs.

Why are the projects being fast-tracked?

The NSW Government is fast tracking the projects as part of its COVID-19 economic recovery plan.

The stimulus package is designed to accelerate development across a range of sectors and boost employment in NSW, particularly regional areas that have suffered the additional impacts of drought and bushfires.



The government has identified construction projects as a key element of economic recovery.

As a result, funding will be prioritised for courthouse projects that can get underway immediately and provide job opportunities for local communities.



Social distancing and isolation requirements have changed the way justice is currently being delivered in NSW.

Arrangements are currently in place at NSW courts to limit face-to-face contact by conducting the majority of matters via Audio Visual Link technology where appropriate.

Reducing the number of physical appearances for court matters presents a unique opportunity to carry out maintenance and upgrades faster with fewer disruptions.

The improvements also put courts in the best possible position to address an expected increase in demand when normal sittings resume.

What are the benefits for the justice system?

Funding will also enable a vast amount of maintenance to be carried out in regional NSW including new fire safety systems, security upgrades, minor improvements and structural repairs.

When will these projects be completed?

Tender and planning approval processes are being accelerated to allow work to begin immediately.

Most of the projects will be finished in 2020.

Who will be carrying out this work?

As part of its economic stimulus package, the government has made a commitment to awarding tenders to small-to-medium sized businesses with a strong focus on local businesses and suppliers where possible.

This approach will create hundreds of jobs, particularly in regional areas, which will help kick start the economy and help drive the state's recovery over the coming weeks and months.

Tender and planning approval processes will be fast tracked to ensure work can start as soon as possible.



For more information

Visit the Department of Communities and Justice's 'Together against COVID-19' website at

www.coronavirus.dcj.nsw.gov.au/services/courts-tribunals-and-jury-services