



Speech by

## Hon. Kerry Shine

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

Hansard Thursday, 15 March 2007

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### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Capital Works Projects

**Hon. KG SHINE** (Toowoomba North—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland) (10.19 am): The government is committed to the fair and timely administration of justice. Part of this government's commitment is through its delivery of new capital works projects for Queensland courts. The government has confirmed its plan to build Australia's largest state court complex, with finalists selected to submit designs for a new Supreme and District Court building. The three architectural firms selected to compete to design this new building have submitted their designs. The winning design will create a new court building and public space within the Queensland Place site, which borders Roma, George and Turbot streets. Queensland Place already boasts the \$135.5 million Brisbane Magistrates Court building, which was officially opened in 2004.

In other parts of south-east Queensland, I have inspected plans for the new courthouse and watch-house at Pine Rivers and a stand-alone new courthouse at Sandgate. Work is also underway for a new courthouse and watch-house in Ipswich. In addition, the government has committed funding for major repairs to the Southport courthouse. In the far north, a meeting will be held at Mareeba next week to discuss the plans and design for a new courthouse. An upgrade of the courthouse at Weipa on the cape is also planned.

Meanwhile, I will officially open the refurbishments of the St George courthouse, in south-west Queensland, this month. The upgrade of the courthouse in Sarina, south of Mackay, is well advanced. The upgrade to the Bowen courthouse was officially opened in December last year. A major upgrade for prisoner-holding facilities at Maryborough is being advanced at the historic courthouse building.