



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 10 June 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Justice and Attorney-General

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.19 am): The Bligh government has a clear plan to reform and modernise Queensland's justice system, and the 2010-11 state budget is further evidence of our commitment to this plan. A massive court building program supporting thousands of jobs, more front-line staff and better services for vulnerable Queenslanders are the focus of this year's record \$1.046 billion budget for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. A key component of this year's justice budget is the \$330 million capital works program, which includes \$290 million for the new District and Supreme Courts complex in Brisbane. This project, worth a total of \$600 million, will create nearly 5,000 jobs during the construction phase and is part of the Bligh government's \$17.1 billion building program. It will also provide courts in a building that will service Brisbane and Queensland for decades to come.

This year's justice budget also provides an extra \$20.3 million over four years to expand the services provided by the Office of the Adult Guardian. This funding will deliver an extra 41 guardians and front-line staff to help the growing number of Queenslanders who are unable to make their own decisions because of accidents, dementia, mental health and other disabilities. Funding has also been provided for the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, which started in December last year and represented the biggest change to the state's civil justice system for 50 years. QCAT has received a funding boost of \$1.5 million a year for extra adjudicators, case managers and support staff, primarily to deal with minor civil disputes and guardianship matters.

The budget provides \$6.7 million over four years to establish the new Sentencing Advisory Council, which was announced in February. There is also an extra \$4 million over four years for the Crime and Misconduct Commission. This will allow the CMC to target the proceeds of crime as well as supporting its other core activities, such as misconduct complaints and policy research. An additional \$460,000 a year has been provided to create five new positions in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. This will be used to employ an extra Crown Prosecutor and legal officers in Ipswich and legal officers in Brisbane, Beenleigh and Cairns. The Bligh government is committed to making Queensland a safer and fairer place to live, and this year's budget supports our ambition.