




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 27 February 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Court System, Facility Upgrades

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.47 am): Queenslanders deserve access to a strong and robust court system no matter where they live. That is why the Palaszczuk government is investing significantly in jobs to boost our justice system, specialist courts to address both offending and rehabilitation, and court upgrades statewide. More than \$44 million was set aside in the 2018-19 state budget for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's capital budget. This will fund important construction work for eight projects across the state which will provide 134 full-time jobs over the life of these projects. To some this might sound like a meaningless figure, but it means safety and justice for the victims of domestic violence who attend specialist domestic and family violence courts in Townsville, Beenleigh, Richlands and Pine Rivers. The Palaszczuk government is providing these specialist courts and facilities—with secure areas and entrances—to make what is an incredibly difficult process as safe and easy as possible.

To those working in the construction industry in the areas it means 75 full-time jobs over the life of those projects. Fifty jobs will be created until the completion of works at courthouses in Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Mackay. Rockhampton's courthouse is undergoing significant external work; Bundaberg will see a new front entrance, security checkpoint and upgraded amenities and window system; and 87 windows at the Mackay courthouse will be replaced to address water issues. Nine construction jobs will be created at the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal to reconfigure levels to accommodate additional staff and to improve mediation rooms, hearing rooms and public and member facilities.

These upgrades are great news for locals and Queensland based contractors thanks to the Palaszczuk government's Charter for Local Content built into all construction tenders to encourage the use of local businesses and subcontractors wherever possible. There is no doubt that Queensland courts are among the busiest in the nation. I thank our judicial officers and court staff for their hard work and determination to provide efficient and accessible court services to the community and I thank those who are helping build and enhance courts statewide.