

Question on Notice

No. 387

Asked on Tuesday, 28 March 2006

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mrs Lavarch) -

QUESTION:

How will the new Ipswich Court House benefit the needs of the people of Ipswich into the future and what features will it have?

ANSWER:

The proposed new Ipswich Courthouse is potentially one of the major court buildings in the State. The design benefits from all the best features included and refined in the course of the Queensland Government's very active court building program over the last ten years.

The design is by ABM Cox Rayner, the architectural firm that designed the highly successful Brisbane Magistrates Court. The new site at the top of South Street is a very prominent position and with the distinctive, high quality architectural design, will create a major civic building that will enhance the Ipswich CBD.

Fronting onto Ellenborough Street, the design includes a landscaped public entrance courtyard and a street side café.

The five storey design is of sufficient size to cope with the expected growth in the Ipswich region identified by the Government's South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan.

The design provides for up to 13 courtrooms for sittings of both the Magistrates and District Courts. These courtrooms will be equipped with the latest information technology including digital audio and video recording and video display. All courtrooms will maximise the use of natural light.

In line with the Government's commitment to vulnerable witnesses all new courthouses will include a vulnerable witness suite for child witnesses to give evidence by video.

The design also includes high quality environmental features and a fully integrated security system. It also includes accommodation for court reporting staff and staff of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.