

Question on Notice

No. 775

Asked on Tuesday, 23 May 2006

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Nambour Court House and her answers to previous questions from me about this court house-

If the Government does not allocate specific money to further upgrade the court house facilities, what criteria will the Coordinating Magistrate use to allow for the hearing of more matters at the Nambour Court House?

ANSWER:

I refer the Honourable Member to my response to Question on Notice 513 when I informed the House that a relevant consideration for the co-ordinating magistrate in criminal matters is that the police watchhouse, police prosecution and legal aid services are based in Maroochydore.

The Coordinating Magistrate advises it is more efficient to hear Nambour related matters at Maroochydore as generally hearings can be dealt with more expeditiously because of the greater flexibility allowed by a multi-magistrate court which operates Monday to Friday. As a result more hearings can be listed each day.

In addition to a magistrate conducting a callover twice per month, small claims hearings are heard when time permits at the end of the callover, and on a specific day every second month.