

Question on Notice

No. 963

Asked on Friday, 8 June 2007

Ms NOLAN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland (Mr Shine) -

QUESTION:

Will he provide an update on plans to construct a new Ipswich Courthouse?

ANSWER:

The Ipswich project, which consists of a new Courthouse for the District Court and Magistrates Court; a new watch house and a new police station, has reached the final stage before commencement of construction. All these building components have been designed as one project and will be built as one project.

The 2007-08 State Budget allocated \$40.4 million, through the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, for the new Ipswich courthouse and watch house project this financial year.

The existing buildings on the Ellenborough Street site have been demolished and the schematic design has been completed by the architects ABM Cox Rayner. Abigroup Contractors Pty Limited has been selected as managing contractor to carry out construction and a gross construction sum has been agreed.

The only outstanding matter is finalisation of the development application by Ipswich City Council. A conditional development approval has been issued but some conditions require further negotiations between Government and Council.

As soon as the development application is finalised the construction contract will be finalised with the managing contractor and construction will be able to start almost immediately.

In parallel with the architectural design work, the public art component has been proceeding and five artists have been selected to produce artwork concepts for the building. This will include wall murals, sculpture and displayed ceramics. Three of the artists are local Ipswich artists.