

TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

Thursday, 22 June 2017

Additional courtrooms to reduce delays

The State Government will invest \$31 million to improve efficiency in the criminal justice system by increasing the number of criminal court rooms in the Sir Samuel Way Building from 11 to 13.

The State Budget funding will also provide for the refurbishment of existing Supreme Court buildings.

The redevelopment is expected to be completed by the end of 2018-19 and create up to 60 jobs during construction, including project managers and administrators, construction workers and engineering and consulting specialists.

A total of \$6.1 million over four years is also committed to transfer further responsibilities to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal – enabling easier dispute resolution.

The Government will also commit \$2.9 million in additional resources, including an additional Deputy Coroner for 12 months for complex inquests and an extra \$780,000 per annum for an extra Supreme Court Judge.

Background

The civil court rooms displaced from the Sir Samuel Way Building through the upgrade will be accommodated in the refurbished Supreme Court buildings.

The commitment builds on the \$1 million in the 2016-17 Budget to develop a strategic approach to future accommodation needs of court facilities in the CBD.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

This investment is about increasing the capacity of our criminal justice system so that cases can be heard more quickly.

Improving the efficiency of our courts will reduce wait times for victims of crime.

Quotes attributable to Attorney-General John Rau

The State Government has been undertaking reform of the criminal justice system to ensure it runs effectively and efficiently.

We recognise that additional court space is necessary to reduce the waiting times for criminal cases to be heard and to give judges more flexibility.

Media Contact: David Russell 0434 307 012