



Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

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UPGRADE OF COBHAM JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRE

Emu Plains Juvenile Justice Centre has closed following the completion of three new accommodation units at the Cobham Juvenile Justice Centre in St Marys, the Attorney General and Minister for Justice Greg Smith SC announced today.

Mr Smith said that stage one of a \$40 million upgrade of Cobham Juvenile Justice Centre in St Marys has been completed.

“The work included the addition of three new accommodation units, expansion of the Education and Training Unit, refurbishment of the Justice Health clinic and a new oval.”

Mr Smith said that while the Emu Plains Centre filled a short term specific need, the upgrade to Cobham has made it redundant.

“The number of young people in custody has dropped over the past 18 months and the beds at Emu Plains will be replaced by three new accommodation units at Cobham.”

“There are some young offenders who need to come into custody for the safety of the community. When they do, I want to make sure they are in centres that provide a safe environment for staff and detainees.”

“The upgrade of Cobham provides a more secure working environment for staff and better conditions to deliver rehabilitation and education programs, and health services,” Mr Smith said.

Emu Plains Juvenile Justice Centre was opened in 2009 to accommodate the rapidly rising numbers of young people in custody, particularly on remand. The former periodic detention facility was retrofitted to accommodate young offenders, and will be handed back to Corrective Services in early April.

The second stage of the capital works at Cobham will include an expanded and refurbished centre kitchen, new storage areas, a new staff entry with refurbished Admissions area, and further refurbishment of the current school.

Tenders will shortly be issued for the remainder of the works.