

NEWS RELEASE



The Hon. Graham West MP
Minister for Juvenile Justice
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering
Minister Assisting the Premier
on Veterans' Affairs

18 June 2009

CALL FOR TENDERS FOR EXPANSION OF ACMENA JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRE

Tenders are being called for the \$8.25 million expansion of Acmena Juvenile Justice Centre, said Minister for Juvenile Justice Graham West today.

The expansion includes the construction of a new 15-bed unit and extra support facilities.

"The Government is inviting companies from the north of our state to apply for the contract, which will boost the local economy and provide work for local suppliers and contractors," said Mr West.

The call for tenders opened on 13 May and close on 23 June 2009.

"A review of the tenderers will be undertaken by the Department of Commerce throughout July, with the contract awarded in early August," said Mr West.

"The project also includes the construction of teaching facilities for the Department of Education and Training school at the centre and associated space to support their staff.

"Acmena Juvenile Justice Centre will increase from a 30 to 45-bed centre, with the project due for completion by around August 2010.

"Around 25 new jobs will be created at the centre upon completion of the unit, adding to the 359 staff members already working for Department of Juvenile Justice in the northern region," Mr West said.

The early works for the new unit began in April when O'Donnell & Hanlon, a family-owned business based in Kempsey on the state's north coast, was awarded the \$500,000 contract.

Early works included building a temporary secure fence, separating the centre's custodial area from the construction zone, and a service road to provide all-weather access to the site for the workers.

"The additional beds at Acmena Juvenile Justice Centre will help address the increase of numbers of young people coming into custody and provide a safer environment for departmental staff," said Mr West.

Media Contact: Cara Davis 9228 4228/ 0407 219 944