



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria  
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

## MEDIA RELEASE



Thursday 17 September, 2020

### **Regional Court Upgrades a Good Opportunity for Stimulus**

Regional court upgrades could be a great way to stimulate local economies and create construction jobs in country towns, State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party, Stuart Grimley MP has said in Parliament this week.

Mr Grimley says that some local courthouses are "dilapidated and in dire need of attention" and has asked the Attorney-General to provide details of which regional courts will be upgraded either prior to or in the next State Budget.

Further, Mr Grimley says that this is an opportunity for regional courts to modernise their services including creating "separate entry and exit points for alleged perpetrators and victims [of family violence], and improved video conferencing facilities" similar to recent upgrades at Ballarat Magistrates Court. The coronavirus crisis has only increased the need for these facilities.

He said this was "in direct contrast to the Horsham Magistrates Court where individuals sometimes have to sit in the bus shelter because the single waiting area is full."

There have long been problems with the Colac Courthouse, with victims and perpetrators walking in the same entrance or using the same waiting room. It's also noted that when normal court hearings return 'post-COVID' that the very small waiting rooms will likely be cramped.

Mr Grimley hopes the Government will look into funding for courthouse upgrades in the near future.

### **Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:**

(In Parliament): "Usually I am standing here to note that failures in sentencing handed down by the courts, or the lack of transparency about particular court proceedings, however today I want to discuss the physical courts themselves."

"Whether it be the Magistrates Court on Roberts Avenue in Horsham or the Magistrates Court on Queen Street in Colac, the state of some of our regional courts are simply disgraceful.

This is a great opportunity to stimulate local economies, to get construction workers on the job and to modernise the courts in regional Victoria."

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