



Speech by


Hon. Campbell Newman

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

Hansard Thursday, 2 August 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.33 am): This Friday Queensland will celebrate the official opening of Brisbane's new home for the Supreme Court and District Court. As all members would be aware, 2012 is the diamond jubilee of our Head of State, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In recognition of this historic occasion—coinciding with the opening of the new courthouse—the Attorney-General and I thought it most appropriate that this new landmark building be named in Her Majesty's honour.

Queensland was named after Her Majesty's great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria, who was the only other British monarch to have reached a 60-year reign in 1897. Accordingly, the Attorney-General and I have made representations to Her Majesty to request approval that Queensland's new law courts be named in her honour. I am pleased to advise the House today that I have now received a copy of a letter from the Office of the Official Secretary of the Governor-General confirming Her Majesty's approval regarding the naming of the law courts. I am pleased therefore to announce that the new law courts building in Brisbane is to be named the Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 31 July 2012, from Mr Mark Fraser, Acting Official Secretary to the Governor-General, to Air Commodore Mark Gower, Official Secretary, Office of the Governor of Queensland, regarding the approval of the Queen of the name of the new law courts building in Brisbane [\[653\]](#).

I note that the original planning for this was initiated by the Borbidge government back in the nineties, but it was the Beattie government who made the decision to proceed with this \$570 million project, which officially started on 6 October 2008, and its completion has been much anticipated. The Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law represent a significant investment in the future of law and order in our great state. This is one of the largest and most impressive court buildings in Australia.

The Newman government is proud to deliver this final addition to the city's legal precinct, which currently includes the State Law Building, the Brisbane Magistrates Court and the Queensland Police Service headquarters. The Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law will house up to 45 courtrooms—13 more than the former courthouse. It will deliver safer, smarter justice, with increased trial capacity, tighter security and digital technology and enhanced facilities.

The former courthouse has served the state well and housed a number of very significant and large court proceedings, but it passed its use-by date some time ago. Some significant cases include former Labor minister Gordon Nuttall, Dr Jayant Patel and more recently Max Sica.

The LNP has a strong law and order agenda—already we have appointed a new Childrens Court magistrate for Brisbane—

Ms Palaszczuk: Cutting the court reporters; they are all talking about it.

Mr NEWMAN:—we have filled a vacancy at the Queensland Court of Appeal; we will be appointing a new Supreme Court justice and we have increased the minimum sentences for murder, repeat child sex offenders and serious assaults on police—

Ms Palaszczuk: They are all talking to us about it.

Mr NEWMAN:—all initiatives that were either opposed by or received a very lukewarm response from those interjecting opposite right now. It is this sort of decisive action that Queenslanders want when it comes to law and order, and the new courts of law will be pivotal to the administration in justice in Queensland for years to come.

Last year marked the 150th anniversary of the Queensland Supreme Court's establishment in 1861, so this is also a very timely development. Chief Justice Paul de Jersey and the judiciary deserve special mention and thanks for their expert input over the past four years. Madam Speaker, Friday's opening heralds the arrival of a new era for the Queensland justice system.