




Speech by

Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard Thursday, 2 August 2012

QUEEN ELIZABETH II COURTS OF LAW

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.32 pm): This week marks a series of significant events in Queensland's legal calendar. Tomorrow I will have the great pleasure in joining Queensland's Governor Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC and the honourable Premier Newman to officially present the key to the new Supreme and District Court building to Chief Justice Paul de Jersey.

I am delighted that the Queen has consented to the courts being named in her honour in this diamond jubilee year. As was announced this morning by the Premier, the new District and Supreme Court complex in Brisbane will be named the Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law.

The significance of the judicial system in our system of government means that the historic importance of tomorrow's event should not be underestimated. The importance certainly has not been lost on members of the judicial community both home and abroad, with many travelling to attend this very special ceremony tomorrow.

A number of judicial events have been scheduled to coincide with the opening tomorrow. The 39th Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand is today holding its biennial meeting in the new Supreme and District courthouse. The date of the meeting was specially selected to precede the day of the opening which will be attended by the Chief Justices and their international visitors who include the Master of the Rolls, Lord Neuberger; Lady Justice Hallett of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales; and the Chief Justice of Hong Kong, Mr Justice Ma.

The council discusses a diversity of issues common to their jurisdictions around the nation. The Chief Justice's office has informed me today that members of the council have expressed their admiration for the new courthouse in setting a benchmark for courthouse design in the national context. Last night I was honoured to join the Governor and the Chief Justices at a reception at Government House to mark this week's special event and again today at lunchtime with the Chief Justices in the new Supreme and District Court complex.

Brisbane is also currently playing host to the 2012 Queensland Magistrates conference. It will be held at both the Brisbane Magistrates Court and Law Society House and provides an opportunity for magistrates, particularly those who work in the more distant parts of the state, to exchange information and ideas and discuss legislative impacts on the courts.

Speakers such as the Hon. Paul de Jersey AC, Chief Justice; Justice John Dowsett, Federal Court of Australia; and Mr Barry Thomas, President of the Mental Health Review Tribunal, are addressing the conference. It will promote discussion on topics such as the implementation of the new Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, sentencing issues and technology and the law. The attendees can also take the opportunity to visit the new Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law. We are very proud to be the government tomorrow that will open this most magnificent court complex, named the Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law.