




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 2 November 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Justice McMurdo, Resignation

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.21 pm): On Monday of this week the President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Margaret McMurdo, informed me that she had written to His Excellency the Governor of Queensland resigning her commission as both president of the appellate court and as a Supreme Court justice on 26 March next year. Justice McMurdo's decision will bring to a close a remarkable career, first as a distinguished lawyer and then as an eminent jurist.

Justice McMurdo has been an exemplary servant of justice in this state. She has been a judge in Queensland for more than 25 years, since becoming the first woman appointed to the bench of the District Court in 1991. Eighteen years ago, when she was appointed President of the Court of Appeal, she became the first woman to preside over an appellate court in Australia. The tenor of Justice McMurdo's term stands as a testament to her legal acumen and leadership over that significant period. She has brought dignity, dedication and intellectual rigour to this vital role. She rightly commands the respect of the legal profession and the judiciary across this state and beyond. Justice McMurdo is a Companion of the Order of Australia and was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003. After being admitted to the bar in 1976, she spent time as an assistant public defender and at the private bar. Justice McMurdo was also a founding member of Women Lawyers Association.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Justice McMurdo for her interactions with me since becoming Attorney-General. The relationship between a first law officer and the most senior members of the judiciary is an important one, and I would like to thank Justice McMurdo for the dignity, discretion and trust which she has brought to our dealings.

By providing extended notice of her intended departure, Justice McMurdo again has demonstrated her commitment to the efficient administration of justice in Queensland. By doing so, she ensures there will be minimal disruption to the function of the courts and a smooth transition can take place. Once again, I thank Justice McMurdo for her distinguished service to Queensland and wish her all the best for the future.