

Question on Notice

No. 1166

Asked on 15 October 2025

HON M FURNER ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR INTEGRITY (HON D FRECKLINGTON)

QUESTION:

With reference to the new Beaudesert Courthouse plaque which incorrectly uses the 'Honourable' title for a member of Parliament currently not entitled to it—

Will the Attorney-General advise

(a) was the Attorney-General's office provided a copy of the wording for the plaque for noting or approval,

(b) how the reported comments in the media from the Office of the Attorney-General that '... an honorific being displayed on a plaque is acceptable to the government' despite the fact the member of Parliament is not entitled to it, aligns with the 'Retention of the title 'Honourable' policy' administered by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and

(c) who made the decision that it is appropriate for the 'Honourable' title to remain on a public government plaque?

ANSWER:

The Beaudesert Courthouse plaque design was created and produced by the Department of Justice. While a copy of the design was provided to my office, no ministerial noting or approval was sought.

Although the inclusion of the honorific title was a departmental oversight, given the Deputy Speaker at times acts as a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, an honorific being displayed on the plaque is acceptable to the Government and does not warrant further demand on the time or resources of the state.

I note the 'Retention of the title 'Honourable' policy' pertains to retention of titles after exiting office, which is not the case in this instance. The Department of Premier and Cabinet is responsible for this policy.