



Brisbane Open House Launch

Chief Justice's remarks

Thursday 28 August 2014

The Hon Tim Carmody Chief Justice

His Excellency the Governor, the Honourable Tim Mander MP, the Honourable Andrew Powell MP, Her Honour the Chief Judge, Mr Malcolm Middleton OAM, Directors-General, other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I begin by acknowledging the Turrbal and Jagera peoples, who are the traditional owners of the land on which this magnificent building stands, and by paying my respects to their elders both past and present.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the Brisbane Open House Launch, held today in the Banco Court. The Brisbane Open House initiative provides a wonderful opportunity for members of the public to observe the form of public buildings in relative isolation from their function.

Aesthetic elements have fundamentally shaped the design of the Queen Elizabeth II Law Courts precinct – though of course these are reflective of, and secondary to, its fitness for purpose. The design aims to reflect the union of tradition and progress. The building itself embraces aspects of traditional Queensland building design elements, such as the use of slatted wooden verandas and airy, large spaces, which is done to great effect in the Great Hall entrance.

At the same time, the court embraces modern design, with its striking glass façade that relates it to the surrounding business district. It embraces modern technology, with a solar panel array and courtrooms well equipped with computer and audiovisual equipment to facilitate the delivery of justice in the new millennia. And, as the Honourable the Attorney-General noted at the opening of this building in 2012, “the use of glass ... assures the



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people of Queensland that their superior courts are open and transparent, figuratively and literally.”¹

Welcome again, and enjoy your tour.

¹ Glenn Martin (ed), *A New Courthouse: Proceedings of the Official Opening of the Queen Elizabeth Courts of Law and the Supreme Court Seminar* (Supreme Court of Queensland Library: 2012) 5.