



New metropolitan Supreme and District Courthouse:
Topping out ceremony
Roof, Level 17
Friday 12 August 2011, 12:15am

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice

The Honourable Simon Finn, Minister for Government Services, Building Industry and Information and Communication Technology, Your Honours, Managing Director and senior management of Lend Lease, Director-General and senior officers of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the Director-General of the Department of Public Works, ladies and gentlemen,

This is a truly remarkable milestone, so much so that I find it difficult to contain my enthusiasm and excitement.

Lend Lease and your talented consultants and sub-contractors: you have risen to countless major challenges in reaching this point, and we see now why it was all so worthwhile. You have produced a stunning building, which for its utility, will serve the people of Queensland well, and even beyond that, it will inspire, is already inspiring. The first question people generally ask me these days is when will the new courthouse be open? Those who speak to me are full of commendation for what they are seeing. Lend Lease and sub-contractors and consultants, you have my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude.

A celebration of this stage of construction must embrace an acknowledgement of the inspirational design of Architectus and Guymer Bailey, which Lend Lease and the contractors have successfully translated from theory to reality.

I want particularly to mention the workers on site who, in often difficult conditions, have actually poured the concrete, operated the cranes, installed the cables, the glass, the



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steelwork and the pipes – and with a reassuringly good safety record. I have marvelled when visiting the site at their calm, methodical, dedicated application to the job.

I know part of the key to the great success of the project to date is that it is such an appealing venture: very different and challenging, producing an enormous sense of achievement when the results are there for all to see and appreciate.

As we know, the project has involved high level cooperation between the Judges and the architect and the builder, for which we Judges are extremely grateful. I believe the project stands as a unique example of such cooperation.

Finally to the paymaster and facilitator: Executive Government deserves continuing commendation for the strength of its commitment to such a major project at this time. That commitment to my observation has never wavered.

It is the contribution of many which has ensured the success we celebrate today, and as we look forward to occupation and the opening next year.

This year 2011 marks the 150th anniversary of the inauguration of the Supreme Court. The recognition of the institution entailed in this massive development, progressing so vitally in the sesquicentenary year, must greatly reassure the people of Queensland: their higher courts are recognized for the pivotal significance they carry.

As I said earlier, the building is already a source of wonder and inspiration. Completed, it will present as a courthouse which will serve, interest and inspire. It will inspire in reminding the citizenry of the stipulation which lies at the base of civil society, which is the rule of law, and it will do that in a most interesting way.

For getting us to this auspicious point, thank you all.