



Valedictory ceremony on the retirement of  
the Far Northern Judge,  
the Honourable Justice Stanley Graham Jones AO  
Supreme Court, Cairns  
Friday 2 September 2011, 9am

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**The Hon Paul de Jersey AC  
Chief Justice**

We join to farewell our colleague the Far Northern Judge, Justice Jones, upon his retirement from the Supreme Court. We do so with regret at his departure, but also gratitude for his contribution.

Justice Jones is highly respected by all his colleagues. Consistently, Judges who cannot be present here today are present in a virtual sense, by video-link from Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville. All Judges would wish to be associated with the observations I am about to make.

In welcoming all persons present this morning, I particularly note the presence of the Honourable the Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Chief Justice Keane and Justice Dowsett of the Federal Court of Australia, both former members of this court, Judges of the District Court, the Chief Magistrate and Magistrates, retired Judges, Land Court member Mr Cochrane, Mayor Val Schier, Members of Parliament, Bishop Foley, Consuls and the Far Northern Judge Designate, Mr Jim Henry SC.

Justice Jones joined the Supreme Court on 2 October 1997, following a distinguished 33 year career in the practising profession, mostly as Counsel, and for the last 8 years as Queen's Counsel. His Honour practised from Rockhampton, to which he contributed substantially, including as Chancellor for 13 years of Central Queensland University. That community contribution, and many others, were recognized by the nation in the year 2005 with his appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia. He has also been awarded two honorary doctorates.



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Justice Jones has discharged his judicial duties with great distinction. It is upon his role as the inaugural Far Northern Judge that I should dwell for a moment this morning.

Our colleague has established and developed the role of Far Northern Judge with great effectiveness, not only in accomplishing the heavy workload of this busy Supreme Court centre, but additionally, in presenting the Supreme Court to the regional community for the significant institution which it is. He has readily and regularly interacted in many ways with the civil community at all levels of government, at schools and the University, and through other community organizations, to the point where he is very well-known and respected as a fine community leader. Like the recently retired Northern Judge Justice Cullinane, Justice Jones has willingly embraced this aspect of the role of resident regional Supreme Court Judge, and what he has done has served to enhance community awareness of the work of the judicial branch of government at this high level, and reinforced respect for the court and its responsibility in the delivery of justice according to law and the maintenance of the rule of law.

In all these endeavours, our colleague has been greatly supported by his wife Helena, for whom all within the Supreme Court community feel great affection. Justice and Mrs Jones leave that community now with the warm appreciation of the court, and the Queensland, especially the Far North Queensland, community. We wish them all the very best as they embark upon a new chapter of their lives together.