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MEDIA RELEASE

I have today informed the Governor of NSW and the Attorney General of NSW of my intention to retire on 5 March 2022, after almost 11 years in office.

It has been an honour and a privilege to have had the opportunity to lead the Supreme Court.

Although my enthusiasm for the role is undiminished, I believe that after more than a decade in office it is time for the Court to be reinvigorated and a new leader to be appointed to take the Court into the future, including for the Court's forthcoming Bicentenary Celebrations in 2023.

I wish to thank all judges, judicial staff and registry staff for the immense contribution all of them have made in ensuring the Court provides access to justice efficiently and fairly to all litigants, particularly due to the challenges from the pandemic over the last two years.

I also thank the legal profession and the four NSW Attorneys General during my time as Chief Justice for their continuing support over that period.

During my time in office, the Court has had to respond to a series of new challenges. This has included the increasing demand for judicial case management in both civil and criminal matters, new areas of dispute which have emerged and the increase in class actions. The Court has adopted a policy that all criminal matters should be case managed from arraignment to trial and has established new lists for emerging areas of dispute, including child sexual abuse claims, High Risk Offender applications and applications in respect of proceeds of crime.

The Court has also embraced the increasing use of technology which has enabled it to continue to conduct all civil matters before it during the course of the pandemic. It has promoted open justice by the provision of judgment summaries in cases of interest and importance, the publication of cases of interest on the Court of Appeal website and the use of social media such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter to inform the public of its judgments and activities.

My successor, undoubtedly, will face new and presently unforeseen challenges in the years ahead. But one thing he or she can count on is the support of a highly skilled, committed and collegiate group of judges. I will be watching with interest from the sidelines, although I must confess, I hope that is not all I have to do in occupying my time.



T F BATHURST AC
Chief Justice

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