

### The Hon Justice Tim Moore

Tim Moore was sworn-in as a judge of the Land and Environment Court at a ceremonial sitting on 2 February 2016. Chrissa Loukas SC spoke on behalf of the New South Wales Bar.

Justice Tim Moore was appointed as a permanent judge having served since 2002 as a commissioner, senior commissioner and acting judge of the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales. Chrissa Loukas SC, speaking on behalf of the bar, remarked: 'your elevation surprised no one and all expect your transition to be seamless'. Of his Honour's long record of achievements in public life, Loukas SC observed:

Justice Moore, the planning and environmental laws and institutions of this state are imbued with your influence. You are regarded as having a 'hands-on approach' and formidable yet versatile intellect: one which has had considerable impact on the purposes for which it was deployed – be it reforming a bureaucratic behemoth, legislating to establish the Environment Protection Authority or mediating for the return of ancestral lands to Aboriginal people.

Tim Moore was elected to the New South Wales Parliament in 1976 and continued to hold the seat of Gordon until 1992. He entered parliament while still a law student and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from the University of New South Wales in 1977. His Honour was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW in 1979.

His long involvement with the environment portfolio began as shadow minister from 1984–88 and then minister from 1988–1992.

His list of achievements in the environment portfolio is considerable. His Honour transformed the Water Board – where once he worked as a labourer – from a monolithic and distrusted statutory body into a state corporation, with a commercial focus and environmental responsibilities that met community expectations. Indeed, no element of the board's operations was beyond ministerial purview. His Honour is a keen recreational caver and he sometimes took to a canoe to inspect the inner workings of main sewers.

His Honour at one time became an object of fascination to the media. The *Sydney Morning Herald's* Mark Coultan wrote: 'Tim Moore was a rare Liberal – smart, articulate and funny: an environmentalist. The National Party hated him.' Another wrote: 'His obvious civil libertarian credentials ... have not endeared him to right-wingers who, even now, believe Mr Moore is something of a closet socialist.'

His Honour's diligence was obvious in 1991–92, during the minority government of Premier Nick Greiner. He was the leader of the government in the Legislative Assembly, and with great skill he negotiated with three non-aligned independents to ensure the passage of bills through a hung parliament.

After his resignation from parliament in July 1992 his Honour was appointed as executive director of the NSW Master Builders Association. He then went to Canberra to serve as assistant secretary of the Aboriginal Reconciliation Branch of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet from 1993 to 1996. In this role his Honour was also secretary to the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation – a role which he discontinued upon the election of the Howard government.

His Honour was admitted to practise at the New South Wales Bar in July 1997. He read with Brian Preston (as his Honour, the chief justice, was then) and David Cowan.

His Honour took a room in 4 Wentworth Chambers and practised mainly in commercial, planning, environmental and building law. However, perhaps his signal achievement at the bar came when the NSW Government appointed him as mediator to negotiate with traditional landowners for the transfer, leasing and joint management of five national parks. Among them was the 40,000 hectare Mootingee National Park, north-east of Broken Hill, which his Honour described at the time as the first of its kind in eastern Australia and the 'most significant step for reconciliation in this state'. Another was the transfer of 253 hectares of Wellington Common to the Wiradjuri people.

His Honour was appointed as a commissioner of the Land and Environment Court in November 2002. In 2009 he was appointed senior commissioner and he twice served as an acting judge. Between June and December 2015 his Honour handed down an estimated 18 decisions in matters ranging from the discharge of oil into Newcastle Harbour; air pollution discharged from a factory in Moorebank; and an 'offal tower' erected without development consent at a chicken farm in Mangrove Mountain.

In her concluding remarks on behalf of the bar, Chrissa Loukas SC said:

Justice Moore, the jurisprudence of sustainable development is of growing importance to current and future generations. The Land and Environment Court is a specialist court, combining the roles of judges and technical experts in innovative ways. The New South Wales Bar is satisfied your knowledge and experience make you eminently suited to the tasks that lie ahead. We wish you every success in this new phase of your career.