



BAR ASSOCIATION
OF QUEENSLAND

Media Release

JUDGE CARMODY SHOULD RECONSIDER

The following is a statement on behalf of The Bar Association of Queensland in regard to developments in recent days.

It is, of course, within the power of the Executive Government (the Government), and solely its responsibility, to select appointments for judicial office including the most important judicial position of Chief Justice of Queensland. With that power comes the responsibility to make appointments that serve to maintain the public confidence essential to the proper functioning of the courts. Importantly neither the appointment itself nor the manner in which it is promoted or defended should allow the judicial office to appear to have become politicised. That is especially so for the leadership position of Chief Justice.

The Office of the Chief Justice of Queensland, the highest judicial office of the State, commands and is to be afforded the highest respect by all, especially by lawyers. The Bar Association has always given that office that respect and will continue to do so into the future, despite the Association's concerns as expressed below.

The recent announcements of the Government's selection of Judge Carmody as the next Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland, and the manner in which that decision has been promoted and defended, has resulted in widely held concerns about the appointment which are serving to damage the Supreme Court of Queensland and the public confidence in it.

The Government's decision, the processes employed and the manner in which it was promoted, did not have the support of the Bar Association, then or now. Many people now have questioned the Government's decision and some have publicly invited Judge Carmody to refuse the high office for which the Government has selected him. The Bar Association also respectfully asks that he reconsider whether to take up the position of Chief Justice.

The Council of the Bar Association
Monday, 23 June 2014

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For further information, please contact Shane Doyle QC at president@qldbar.asn.au