



Mark Speakman
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STATEMENT

Friday, 27 August 2021

CHIEF MAGISTRATE RETIRES

The retirement today of NSW Chief Magistrate Judge Graeme Henson AM marks the end of an era for the Local Court of NSW.

Judge Henson served on the bench of the Local Court for 33 years, the last 15 as head of Australia's busiest jurisdiction. I thank him for his dedicated service to the people of NSW through his valued work in the justice system and for being a tireless advocate for his court.

His Honour's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has kept court users safe and kept the wheels of justice moving. During his period as Chief Magistrate, Judge Henson played a crucial role in the implementation of complex criminal justice reforms.

Deputy Chief Magistrate Michael Allen will be Acting Chief Magistrate while the NSW Government considers a permanent replacement for Judge Henson.

Magistrate Allen has more than 35 years' experience in the law, serving on the bench of the Local Court in regional and metropolitan NSW since 2009. I thank his Honour for making himself available to lead the Local Court during this period.

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