

1. Chief Judge, other justices and judges, members of the profession, ladies and gentleman. Thank you for being here this morning. I thank the Attorney and Ms McPhie for their generous words. I am also honoured that the Chief Justice is present in Court today.
2. Today, in part, is an opportunity for me to acknowledge the guidance, assistance and support that I have received from others. It is not possible for me to acknowledge that fact adequately, without first also giving public recognition to the opportunities which this country has given me. I did not have the good fortune to be born in Australia, but I did have the good fortune to have parents who recognised the opportunities that Australia offered.
3. We migrated from England in 1968. Like many English people, I think my parents were keen on the idea of Australia's sunny skies. Both my parents had been children in London during the Second World War. Both were in orphanages -my mother from before the war and my father after his mother, my grandmother Margaret, was killed in the Blitz -a mine, probably intended for the River Thames, was dropped on the rail line near their street. Britain's manpower crisis was so severe that my grandfather, Harry, was sent to North Africa with the RAF in any event. His four children were evacuated from London, separated and remained in orphanages until the end of the war. As for my mother, the only children evacuated from her orphanage were the boys -after a bomb landed in the grounds. The girls got to stay until the end.
4. As a consequence of their circumstances, the thing that my parents prized above all others was the opportunity for formal education. People who have experienced hardship and dislocation when young are perhaps best placed to inculcate the message *-Once you have*

education, no one can take it away from you. I have no doubt that my parents saw in Australia the best and fairest educational opportunities.

5. Australia did not let my parents down. I received a very fine education in the public school system of this State. I also had the opportunity to undertake higher education at both Macquarie University and the University of Sydney. I seriously doubt that those opportunities would have been available to me had my parents not made what I think was the best decision of their lives -to come to this country and for us to become its citizens.
6. I am honoured to be able to acknowledge and give thanks for what Australia has given me.
7. It is also an enormous pleasure to me to be able to thank my parents, Joan and John, for the support they have always given me. I am also very pleased that my brother Simon and his wife, Kathy, are here, as well as my friend, and Kathy's mother, June Burt.
8. After graduating from the University of Sydney, I was employed as a solicitor in the Sydney office of Mallesons Stephen Jaques. Having expressed an interest in administrative law, I had the good fortune to be placed in the firm's environmental and planning practice area which, at that time, was part of its property group. As a consequence, my early training was the responsibility of David O'Donnell as well as Debra Townsend, both of whom I wish to acknowledge and thank today. Being in the property group, I also had the pleasure of working with Frank Zipfinger and with Paul Ellis whom I thank for their guidance.

9. Well before I had graduated, when I was a very lowly summer clerk, I had the privilege of tagging along with two partners of Mallesons, Belinda Gibson and Julie Ward, to my first conference with Queen's Counsel, which of course I found incredibly exciting. That Queen's Counsel was Murray Tobias, now Justice Tobias, who regrettably is not able to be here today. Justice Tobias was an inspiration to me in my practice of the law from the moment of that conference. When a leader of the Bar, he was also unfailingly generous to me in my professional development from that day onwards. I wish to acknowledge that generosity today.

10. In 1997, I was offered a partnership at Mallesons Stephen Jaques, which I accepted. I had some 10 years in practice as a solicitor. I found the highs and lows of legal practice fascinating. It gave me the opportunity to help people address issues which had a real and immediate significance and which were inherently interesting.

11. During my time as a solicitor, I had the privilege and pleasure of briefing many barristers who also contributed significantly to my knowledge and enjoyment of the law. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Peter McClellan, a former Chief Judge of this Court, now Chief Judge at Common Law. I would also like to thank Peter Hanks QC of the Victorian bar, Malcolm Craig QC and Bret Walker SC. I had the privilege of briefing each when I was a solicitor and each also gave me invaluable guidance when I went to the bar. I am very appreciative of the fact that they are here today.

12. I was a latecomer to the Bar and have not practiced there as long as I initially intended. Although I knew I wished to practice as a barrister, I was not overly filled with confidence about my prospects. I would like to thank Vivienne Ingram, solicitor, for the kind words she found for me at that time which included the five words which every prospective barrister longs to hear "*Of course I'll brief you*". When I finished the Bar Practice course and walked into my small reader's cupboard on the 11th floor St James Hall, Vivienne had arranged for a folder tied with a pink ribbon to be waiting on my chair -my first brief.
13. I had the good fortune to become a member of 11th floor, St James Hall, a floor filled with dynamic, gifted and very good humoured barristers. I thoroughly enjoyed my four years on the floor and do not think I could have found a better collegiate environment. I also wish to thank two secretaries, Heather Kelly and Jody Thornton, who gave me invaluable assistance and friendship.
14. As a barrister, I had the privilege of being briefed by a number of the solicitors of this State including those in private practice, in house counsel and the State Crown and Australian Government Solicitor. I was and still am amazed and gratified by the range of work I received. I wish to thank all those solicitors for their support.
15. Planning and environmental law has always been a substantial part of my professional practice. The interactions of people and their environment, and the regulation of those interactions, are of fundamental importance to our society. I recognise the significance of the opportunity to contribute to the jurisprudence of this Court. I trust that I approach that task in the right spirit – with recognition of that

responsibility, a large dose of humility and a commitment to do my best. Thank you.