

Law Council welcomes appointment of Judge Anne Demack as the new Federal Circuit Court judge to Rockhampton

The Law Council has welcomed the appointment of a new Federal Circuit Court judge, Judge Anne Demack, to Rockhampton.

Judge Demack will circuit to Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay and also Brisbane, on occasion.

Chair of the Law Council's Rural, Regional and Remote (RRR) Lawyers Committee Morry Bailes said Judge Demack would bring a wealth of experience to the role.

"The appointment of Judge Demack will serve to greatly improve access to justice in the community," Mr Bailes said.

"Research undertaken in recent years indicates that there is a shortage of investment in the legal system and legal services in rural, regional, and remote areas. The appointment of Judge Demack is therefore an extremely welcome development."

Mr Bailes noted that the number of legal professionals working in country Australia is continuing to decline and that a Law Council survey, conducted in 2009, had demonstrated this problem would significantly worsen in coming years.

"The Law Council is concerned that a critical shortage of lawyers in rural, regional, and remote areas is negatively impacting the ability of individuals to access legal services," Mr Bailes said.

"There is a pressing need for government to address the recruitment and retention of legal practitioners to country Australia."

Judge Demack's appointment was announced by the Attorney-General, Senator George Brandis, earlier this month.

At the ceremony and first sitting, Federal Member for Capricornia Michelle Landry noted that having a judge based in Rockhampton and travelling the 100 kilometres around the area to service the community would be immensely helpful to the families of Central Queensland.

Anil Lambert (media)

M. 0416 426 722

E. anil@hortonadvisory.com.au // www.lawcouncil.asn.au