

**A FAREWELL FROM THE PRESIDENT, DAMIEN O'BRIEN KC
AT THE LAST SITTING OF
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE THOMAS
AT THE SILKS CEREMONY IN THE FEDERAL COURT
ON THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2023**

May it please the Court.

On behalf of the barristers of Queensland, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to thank you, Justice Thomas, for your contribution to the administration of justice - first as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland and more recently on this Court.

After a very successful career as a solicitor, your Honour answered the call to serve. At both the Supreme Court and the Federal Court you tackled the significant challenge of leading the administrative streams of those courts in the QCAT and the AAT.

As President of both those tribunals you deployed all of your considerable legal and managerial skills to bring about efficiencies and refinements to the significant workload that they deal with. Those tribunals are for many - if not most - in the community the most likely forum that they will interact with. They do important work and your Honour's leadership left those tribunals greatly improved.

To serve as a Judge involves significant sacrifice. The Queensland Bar thanks your Honour for taking on board that heavy load and for your dedication to the administration of justice.

We know your Honour has many interests outside the law. We are confident they will keep you busy once you leave this place.

We wish your Honour all the best for the future.

May it please the Court.