



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Industrial Relations
Acting Minister for Health

Wednesday, September 2, 2009

NEW COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND AND ENVIRONMENT COURT

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos today announced the appointment of Judy Fakes as a Commissioner of the Land and Environment Court.

He said Ms Fakes brings over 30 years experience in environmental science to the position.

“Ms Fakes has an Australian-wide reputation as a leader in her field. She has received numerous awards of excellence for her professional contribution to arboriculture and horticulture,” he said.

Ms Fakes has been an Acting Commissioner of the Court since early 2007. During her term she has heard and determined nearly 100 disputes under the *Trees (Disputes Between Neighbours) Act 2006*.

She has also heard a number of other matters in the Court’s planning jurisdictions. She has played a significant role in the development of “user friendly”, plain English information in the Tree Disputes practice collection on the Court’s web site.

She has a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, a Graduate Diploma in Education and a Graduate Certificate in Forestry, and is currently enrolled in a Graduate Certificate in Property and Planning at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Ms Fakes is currently the Head Teacher Horticulture – Parks, Gardens and Arboriculture at TAFE NSW – Northern Sydney Institute.

Ms Fakes has applied experience in the practice of arboriculture and horticulture, through her consulting work for national, state and local government, government authorities, electricity distributors, and heritage and park trusts.

Ms Fakes is a member of the Australian Standards Association Committee – Arboriculture and has participated in developing various Australian Standards for arboriculture.

She has been a member of various committees responsible for arboriculture or horticulture for public parks, including the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, and Hyde Park.

Ms Fakes will take up her seven year appointment on 2 October.