



MEDIA RELEASE

**Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Industrial Relations**

Thursday, June 11, 2009

NEW COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND AND ENVIRONMENT COURT

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

Ms Pearson has 29 years experience in the law, in private practice, as a legal academic and as a legal or judicial member of a number of administrative review tribunals. She is currently a part-time judicial member of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal.

“Ms Pearson has particular expertise in planning, environmental, local government, resource and administrative law and has published extensively in these areas,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“She is a co-author of two of the leading books on planning and environmental law in NSW. Since 1990, she has also been the Natural Resources Editor of Australian Administrative Law and has published on aspects of mining law.”

Ms Pearson, who is also a trained mediator, will begin serving as a Commissioner of the Land and Environment Court on July 13. Another recently appointed Commissioner, Susan Dixon, will begin serving on July 6. Both appointments are for seven years.

Mr Hatzistergos said in addition to the wide experience that each of the new Commissioners brings to the planning, environmental and local government areas of the court, both are qualified to sit as Commissioners for Mining in the Land and Environment Court.

From April 7, 2009, the court assumed the civil litigation jurisdictions of the Mining Warden’s Court. These two appointments will bring to three the number of Commissioners qualified to sit as Commissioners for Mining.

“This will mean that the court can deal with civil mining litigation efficiently and with a greater degree of flexibility than in the past when only the Chief Mining Warden dealt with such cases,” Mr Hatzistergos said.