



**Mark Speakman**  
Attorney General

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, 20 April 2018

### **APPOINTMENT OF NEW JUDGE TO DUST DISEASES TRIBUNAL**

Attorney General Mark Speakman today announced the appointment of Sydney barrister Wendy Strathdee to the bench as a member of the Dust Diseases Tribunal and the District Court of NSW.

Mr Speakman said Ms Strathdee would be replacing His Honour Judge William Kearns SC, who will be retiring on 15 May.

“Ms Strathdee brings a wealth of experience to the bench, having worked as a barrister for the past 26 years,” Mr Speakman said.

“She has practised at the private Bar, predominantly in the Dust Diseases Tribunal of NSW (DDT), for plaintiffs and defendants.

“Ms Strathdee has also conducted common law trials in the District and Supreme Courts of NSW and Queensland, as well as WorkCover prosecutions in the Industrial Relations Commission.”

In 2005, Ms Strathdee was appointed as a mediator and contributions assessor for the DDT. She has conducted mediations outside the DDT, including claims by victims of institutional physical and sexual abuse.

Ms Strathdee has also been involved in training and mentoring of legal practitioners and law students in alternative dispute resolution.

“Judge Kearns has played a pivotal role in helping to deliver justice in the District Court and DDT over the past 13 years and I am pleased he will continue to assist the court in his new role as an Acting Judge,” Mr Speakman said.

Ms Strathdee will be sworn in and begin sitting on the DDT from Tuesday 22 May.