



# Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Parliament of Queensland

## Media Statement

Monday 24 May 2010

### QUEENSLAND REDS HELP LAUNCH PARLIAMENT'S NEW QUEENSLAND RED

Members of the Queensland Reds helped launch the Queensland Parliament's new bottle of red wine at a function at Parliament House on Friday night.

Queensland Reds captain James Horwill, most capped Reds player Sean Hardman and coach Ewen McKenzie joined Speaker John Mickel to launch the wine as part of the Queensland Parliament's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

The Parliament's new red wine which is named 'The Governor's Chair' was jointly launched with a new white wine titled 'The Speaker's Chair'.

Mr Mickel said that the wine labels of 'The Governor's Chair' and 'The Speaker's Chair' featured pictures of the Queensland Parliament's two most prominent pieces of colonial furniture, and historical information about the use and origin of these chairs.

"It is fitting that as the Queensland Parliament celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary we highlight these remarkable pieces of furniture that form part of our history.

"Historians believe that the Governor's Chair was used on the first day that the Queensland Parliament sat on 22 May 1860 and that it has taken pride of place in Queensland's Legislative Council Chamber, our former upper house, since that day.

"The Speaker's Chair has been part of the parliament since 1871 and was built by Brisbane craftsman John Petrie for the price of £14.

"Queenslanders can now enjoy a glass of these lovely wines and while reading the labels learn about the history of their parliament and in particular these two treasured items of furniture," Mr Mickel said.

"It was great that we could have a few full-bodied Queensland Reds join us for the launch of the Parliament's latest red. Like a very good wine, we have seen this season how the spirit and passion of the Queensland Reds is definitely worth bottling."

Mr Mickel said that just like the Queensland Parliament which was established in 1860, the Queensland wine industry also dated back to the 1860s with wine grapes then being grown in Mount Ommaney, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Roma and on the Granite Belt.

'The Governor's Chair' and 'The Speaker's Chair' two wines were selected by a panel of experts in February 2010 in a 'blind' tasting that was led by Master of Wines Andrew Corrigan.

The panel sampled more than 60 Queensland wines before selecting a 2009 Verdelho from Robert Channon Wines as the best white wine and a 2007 Syrah from Witches Falls Winery as the best red wine.

Mr Mickel said the Queensland Parliament was pleased to continue its support of the Queensland wine industry by stocking locally produced wines.

The two wines will be served at Parliament House and sold to members of the public from the parliament's gift shop.

**Media Contact: 3406 7170**



