

New High Court Robes

With effect from the commencement of its October sittings, the High Court of Australia has adopted new judicial robes. The new robes were designed by Mr Bill Haycock, who has previously designed judicial robes for the Federal Court and the Federal Circuit Court.

The design of the new robes juxtaposes Australian merino wool with silk. They are made to be lighter and more practical than the previous robes, with a design reflecting the function of the High Court in the Australian Federation.

The robes embody three symbolic features. There are seven equal tucks reflecting the seven components of the Federation — the States and the Commonwealth. There is a hand-woven element in the sleeve ends based on sand ripple patterns and a triangular motif suggestive of the High Court's function as the final court of appeal for Australia.



The robes were developed as a collaboration with Mr Haycock's creative colleagues Margaret Adam as cutter, Saffron Firkins as maker and Kay Faulkner as weaver.