Matters of considerable public interest

The Board is comprised of dedicated professionals and members of the community who take their role very seriously.

Well before recent media reports of high-profile parole applications, the Deputy Presidents and I had been discussing ways to increase transparency of the Board’s decision making processes and outcomes. We recognise the public interest in the work of the Board.

After the No Body, No Parole laws were passed, the senior leadership group decided to hold public parole hearings for the first time in Queensland’s history. Reasons for the Board’s decision in those matters are already published (See, No body No Parole – Decisions of the Board on this website).

Open hearings for other parole matters present complexities. In 2018-2019, the Board considered in excess of 3000 applications for parole and it would be impossible, with the resources available, to publish reasons in all cases.

Despite the challenges, a decision has been made to publish reasons in cases of ‘considerable public interest’ recognising the value in dispelling myths and increasing transparency.

That will now be possible using this new website which has been agitated as a necessary communication tool by the Board for a number of years.

I look forward to keeping the public and stakeholders up-to-date with the important work of the Board from now on.

**Michael Byrne QC**

**President**