

# Industrial traction

## Judges file challenge in own court to stay in city digs

**EXCLUSIVE**  
**ANNA CALDWELL**

THE state's top industrial judges are embroiled in a bizarre legal challenge in their own court to stop NSW Government moving them from their plush Victorian-era sandstone offices in the CBD to a new home at Parramatta.

The workers of the Industrial Relations Commission — five full-time commissioners and 10 staff — united yesterday to lodge notice of an industrial dispute in the Industrial Relations Commission.

Represented by the Public Service Association, the commission employees are arguing they have not been given sufficient say in their planned relocation to a yet undecided new home in western Sydney.

The notification of the dispute was heard by IRC Chief Commissioner Peter Kite with the matter due back before him today for a compulsory conference.

However, it is understood



The interior of the Industrial Relations Commission building on Bridge St.

the state government could argue that the commission cannot sit in judgment of its own workplace complaint.

It wants to move the IRC workforce from the landmark Victorian era sandstone Chief Secretary's Building on Bridge St — a historically significant five-storey edifice constructed in the Italianate style with sandstone balustrades marble tiled floors.

Other significant features of the prime downtown office building include large iron gates and carved symbols of Art and Commerce, barrel-vaulted ceilings and unique pieces of furniture and art from the 1879 Sydney International Exhibition.

The government wants to free up the stunning building for other uses and the relo-

cation is part of its planned decentralisation of the public service which has so far seen 1381 jobs shifted to Western Sydney.

By 2019 it intends to move 4200 positions to the west, including the Department of Education, Department of Planning and Environment, Department of Industry and Department of Finance.

The IRC move has been largely kept under wraps but on learning of the Government's intentions, the IRC yesterday took the matter to court. The PSA confirmed its objections to The Daily Telegraph after the matter was adjourned.

The Daily Telegraph understands the government has not yet determined a site in Western Sydney to house the IRC workforce, but will consult with the workforce to make the move work as smoothly as possible.

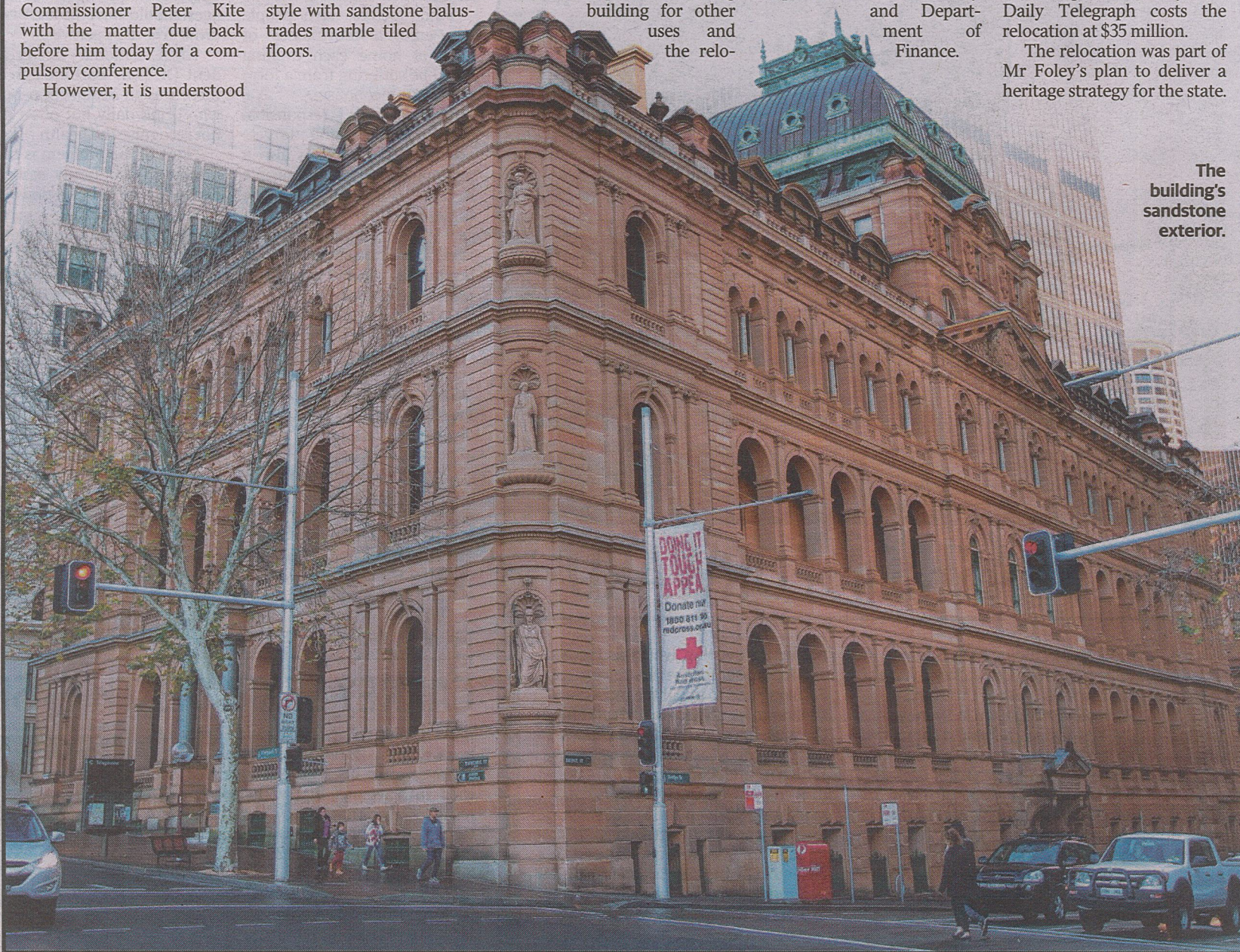
Its plans for the historic building on Bridge St have not been revealed.

Opposition Leader Luke Foley announced a plan last April to relocate the Office of the Premier and cabinet room to the Chief Secretary's Building.

Confidential government modelling obtained by The Daily Telegraph costs the relocation at \$35 million.

The relocation was part of Mr Foley's plan to deliver a heritage strategy for the state.

The building's sandstone exterior.



## New pain pill laws' dark side

**JACK HOUGHTON**

DARK web retailers have experienced a surge in codeine tablet sales even rivalling online purchases of hard narcotics following an over-the-counter ban on the painkilling products in Australia.

A Daily Telegraph investigation can reveal codeine pills were among the most sold drug on the Silk Road 3.1 website yesterday, with figures almost matching those of cocaine and heroin vendors.

Sydney pharmacist Feras Karem said forcing consumers to get a prescription from doctor to buy codeine would push more mums and dads into dark web markets and put them at risk of sub-quality, unregulated products.

"That portion of society which is addicted to codeine will do everything in their power to get codeine and that will include online doctor shops," he said.

"You also have no real idea what you are buying."

Mr Karem, who runs Pharmacy 4 Less, is campaigning alongside the Pharmaceutical Guild to get the new regulations removed after they came into effect yesterday. The restrictions prevent customers from buying codeine pills without a prescription.

Dark web vendor HeinekExpress was yesterday trending on the Silk Road website by selling 30 packs of 20mg codeine pills from Germany for \$29. The vendor processed thousands of orders and earned a rare "highly sold" badge, out-selling illicit drug vendors peddling cocaine and MDMA.

## Spot fines for DUIs

LOW RANGE drink drivers could be given on-the-spot fines and face immediate licence disqualifications under road safety reforms being considered by the Berejiklian government.

A package of road safety measures was discussed at a Cabinet meeting yesterday, including the multi-million extension of wire rope barriers on the deadly Princes Hwy.

NSW Roads Minister Troy Grant said under the current system, many low range drink drivers — those who blow between 0.5 and 0.8 — end up escaping both convictions and fines when they appear in court for sentence.

## DIG BEGINS FOR KIDS

POLICE will today excavate part of an Adelaide factory in the hope of finding the remains of the missing Beaumont children and solving one of the nation's most enduring mysteries.

The Beaumont children — Jane, 9, Arna, 7, and Grant, 4 — disappeared after failing to return from a trip to Glenelg Beach on Australia Day in 1966. South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill yesterday said: "It would be a great relief for many people, family, friends and the broader South Australian community if we could finally bring justice to that family."



Jane, Arna and Grant Beaumont.

## State RSL future in minister's hands

THE future of NSW RSL is expected to be revealed within the next fortnight, with the findings from a public inquiry into the organisation's misuse of funds being handed down.

The inquiry was set up after the organisation's former president Don Rowe was accused of, and later admitted to, using its funds for private expenditure.

Patricia Bergin SC last year heard from Mr Rowe and dozens of other RSL members and legal advisers and yesterday handed her findings to Better Regulation Minister Matthew Kean. The NSW RSL said a response was expected within the next 10 days.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian said she was keen for the report and would deal with any recommen-

dations made. "I love the RSL as an organisation and 99.9 per cent of the members do the right thing," Ms Berejiklian has previously said.

"They were the ones urging us to have the inquiry because they wanted to clear their name as an organisation to make sure they can get on with the job of what they do best."