



# *Government Gazette*

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New South Wales

**Number 78 - Parliament, Ministerial, Courts and Police**

**Friday, 28 February 2025**

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**Office of the Minister for Police  
SYDNEY, NSW**

**26 February 2025**

**MURDER**

**FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$500,000) REWARD**

**On 12 February 2024, the body of Duncan Alexander Campbell, aged 58 years, was located in an advanced state of decomposition in bushland at City Hill, Coffs Harbour, NSW. It is believed that Duncan Campbell was murdered between 4 and 5 February 2024.**

**Notice is hereby given that a reward of up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) will be paid by the Government of New South Wales for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for murder of Duncan Alexander Campbell.**

**The allocation of this reward will be at the sole discretion of the Commissioner of Police.**

**The urgent assistance and co-operation of the public is especially sought in the matter. Any information, which will be treated as confidential, may be given at any time of the day or night at any Police Station or by telephone -**

**Police Headquarters telephone (02) 9281 0000  
or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000**

**The Hon. Yasmin CATLEY, MP  
Minister for Police and Counter Terrorism**



## PRACTICE NOTE SC Eq 3

### Supreme Court Equity Division – Commercial List and Technology and Construction List

#### Commencement

1. This Practice Note was issued on 26 February 2025 and commences on 3 March 2025.

#### Application

2. This Practice Note applies to new and existing proceedings in, or to be entered in, the Commercial List or the Technology and Construction List in the Equity Division.

#### Definitions

3. In this Practice Note:

**Court Book** means the documents that a party intends to rely upon at the trial or hearing of an application

**CPA** means the *Civil Procedure Act 2005*

**UCPR** means the *Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 2005*

**SCR** means the *Supreme Court Rules 1970*

**Lists** mean the Commercial List or the Technology and Construction List

**List Judge** means a judge of the Equity Division assigned to administer the Lists and

**Document** has the same meaning as in the *Evidence Act 1995 (NSW)*.

#### Introduction

4. The purpose of this Practice Note is to set out the case management procedures employed in the Lists for the just, quick and cheap disposal of proceedings.
5. Practice Note SC Eq 1 shall not apply to proceedings in the Lists.
6. It is expected that this Practice Note will be observed for the conduct of proceedings entered in either of the Lists.
7. A party who considers that compliance with this Practice Note will not be possible, or will not be conducive to the just, quick and cheap disposal of the proceedings, may apply to be relieved from compliance on the basis that an alternative proposed regime will be more conducive to such disposal.

## Pleadings and Entry in the Lists

8. A matter in the Lists shall be commenced in the general form of Summons prescribed under the UCPR. There is to be filed with the Summons a List Statement, for the Commercial List a “Commercial List Statement” and for the Technology and Construction List a “Technology and Construction List Statement”, setting out, in summary form, in the form of Annexure 1:
  - (a) the nature of the dispute;
  - (b) the issues which the plaintiff believes are likely to arise;
  - (c) the plaintiff's contentions;
  - (d) the questions (if any) the plaintiff considers are appropriate to be referred to a referee for inquiry and report; and
  - (e) a statement as to whether the parties have attempted to mediate **and** whether the plaintiff is willing to proceed to mediation at an appropriate time.
9. The plaintiff's contentions should:
  - (a) avoid formality;
  - (b) state the allegations the plaintiff makes with adequate particulars; and
  - (c) identify the legal grounds for the relief claimed.
10. A defendant shall file and serve a List Response, in the Commercial List a “Commercial List Response” or in the Technology and Construction List a “Technology and Construction List Response”, setting out, in summary form in the form of Annexure 1:
  - (a) the nature of the dispute;
  - (b) the issues which the defendant believes are likely to arise;
  - (c) the defendant's response to the plaintiff's contentions including the legal grounds for opposition to the relief claimed in the Summons;
  - (d) the questions (if any) the defendant considers are appropriate to be referred to a referee for inquiry and report; and
  - (e) a statement as to whether the parties have attempted to mediate **and** whether the defendant is willing to proceed to mediation at an appropriate time.
11. The defendant's contentions should:
  - (a) avoid formality;
  - (b) admit or deny the allegations the plaintiff makes;
  - (c) in so far as they do not already appear state the allegations the defendant makes including adequate particulars of those allegations; and
  - (d) identify the legal grounds for opposition to the relief claimed in the Summons.
12. Any Cross-Claim shall be made in the general form of Cross-Summons prescribed under the UCPR. There is to be filed and served with any Cross-Summons a List Cross-Claim Statement, in the Commercial List a “Commercial List Cross-Claim Statement” or, in the Technology and Construction List a “Technology and Construction List Cross-Claim Statement” setting out the matters listed in paragraphs 8 and 9 above in the form of Annexure 1.
13. A Cross-Defendant shall file and serve a List Cross-Claim Response, in the Commercial List a “Commercial List Cross-Claim Response” or, in the Technology and Construction List, a “Technology and Construction List Cross-Claim Response” setting out the matters listed in paragraphs 10 and 11 above in the form of Annexure 1.

14. At the time of service of any Cross-Summons the Cross-Claimant is to serve on the Cross-Defendant copies of the Summons and any other Cross-Summons together with any relevant List Statement and List Response and any List Cross-Claim Statement and List Cross-Claim Response that have been served on or by the Cross-Claimant.
15. Any party moving for an order for entry of any proceedings in either of the Lists shall move by Notice of Motion at the earliest possible time and shall file and serve with the Notice of Motion a relevant List Statement or List Response.
16. Any motion for an order for entry of proceedings in either of the Lists shall be made returnable before the List Judge on a Friday.
17. For ease of reference all List Statements and Responses (including in relation to Cross-Claims) must include a Front Sheet identifying the names of the parties and their designation as plaintiff or defendant or Cross-Claimant or Cross-Defendant. This paragraph does not apply to a Summons or Cross-Summons.

### **Removal from the Lists**

18. Upon an order being made removing proceedings from either of the Lists and subject to paragraph 19, this Practice Note shall not apply to the proceedings from the making of that order.
19. The Court may direct that this Practice Note shall continue to apply to the proceedings to the extent stated in the direction.
20. The making of an order removing proceedings from either of the Lists shall not affect any orders made or directions given prior to such removal.

### **Motions and Directions**

21. All proceedings in the Lists are case managed by the List Judge with the aim of ensuring a speedy resolution of the real issues between the parties. The Lists are administered in Court on Friday of each week. Motions are listed at 9.15 am and are called through for the purpose of ascertaining the length of the hearing and allocating a time for hearing on that or some other day. All matters for directions will be listed for live hearings in groups of 10 in half hourly intervals commencing at 10.00 am. Directions in the Technology and Construction List will follow immediately after directions in the Commercial List. The times for the commencement of the Motions and Directions hearings may change and Practitioners should always check the daily court lists as published prior to attendance at Court on a Friday
22. The Court's expectation of Practitioners appearing in the Lists includes that:
  - (a) careful review of the case will be made as early as practicable for the purpose of informing the Court of its suitability for mediation, for reference out of all or some of the issues, and/or for the use of a single expert, or a Court Appointed Expert or the use of an appropriate concurrent evidence process;

- (b) at the time the matter is set down for hearing trial counsel will provide to the Court:
    - (1) a considered opinion of the realistic estimate of the time required for trial; and
    - (2) the allocation of time for their client's evidence and submissions in the stopwatch system for trial;
  - (c) agreement will be reached on a timetable for the preparation of matters for trial and/or reference and/or mediation and Consent Orders will be handed up during the directions hearing;
  - (d) if there is slippage in an agreed timetable, further agreement will be reached without the need for the intervention of the Court; and
  - (e) requests for Court intervention in relation to timetabling will only be sought rarely when, for good reason, agreement has proved to be impossible.
23. To facilitate the just, quick and cheap resolution of matters Consent Orders will be made by the List Judge in Chambers on days other than Friday by application in writing to the List Judge's Associate. When Consent Orders are to be made either in Chambers or in Court varying a timetable, it is imperative that those Orders include the vacation of any date for directions hearings or the hearing of Motions that the parties no longer wish to maintain. If the proceedings settle, it is necessary to have the List Judge make Orders finalising the litigation, rather than filing Terms or Orders with the Registry. Those Orders may also be made by consent in Chambers.
24. The Lists close at 12 noon on Thursday. Any application to add a matter to the List or remove a matter from the List must be made prior to 12 noon on Thursday. Such applications are to be made in writing to the List Judge's Associate.
25. At the first and/or subsequent directions hearings orders will be made and directions given with a view to the just, quick and cheap disposal of the proceedings. The orders or directions may relate to:
- (a) the filing of a Summons, List Statements, List Responses or other documents;
  - (b) the filing of a Cross-Summons, List Cross-Claim Statements or Responses;
  - (c) the filing of a statement of agreed issues and the result in the proceedings according to the determination of those issues;
  - (d) the provision of any essential further particulars that are not contained in the List Statements or Responses;
  - (e) the making of admissions, pursuant to a notice to admit facts or otherwise;
  - (f) the appointment of a single expert or a Court Appointed Expert;
  - (g) the holding of conferences of experts including with a view to providing joint reports and/or agendas for use in the concurrent evidence method at trial;
  - (h) the filing of lists of documents either generally or with respect to specific matters;
  - (i) the preparation of a Scott Schedule;
  - (j) the provision of copies of documents;
  - (k) the administration and answering of interrogatories either generally or with respect to specific matters;
  - (l) the service and/or filing of affidavits or statements of evidence by a specified date or dates;
  - (m) the reference to a referee for inquiry and report of the whole of the proceedings or any question arising therein; and
  - (n) the obtaining of the assistance of any person specially qualified to advise on any matter arising in the proceedings.

26. Orders or directions relating to the provision of particulars, the filing of lists of documents and the administration of interrogatories will be made only upon proof of necessity.
27. Unless it is anticipated that a motion will be settled or adjourned, the parties should cause to be filed **and** emailed to the List Judge's Associate a short outline of submissions by 12 noon on the Thursday preceding the return date of the motion and to cause an Application Book and any objections to any affidavits to be delivered to the List Judge's Associate by 5.00 pm on that Thursday.
28. If a motion settles between the time it is filed and the date it is listed for hearing, the parties should immediately notify the List Judge's Associate of that fact and provide to the List Judge's Associate Short Minutes of Order setting out the orders to be made to resolve the motion.
29. Applications for leave under cll 15 and 21 of the Supreme Court Practice Note SC Gen 23 "Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI)" should be made by motion in the proceedings.

### **Discovery**

30. The Court endorses a flexible rather than prescriptive approach to discovery to facilitate the making of orders to best suit each case.
31. Subject to an order of the Court or unless otherwise agreed between the parties, discovery of electronically stored documents and information is to be made electronically. Discoverable documents and information that are not stored electronically should only be discovered electronically if it is more cost effective to do so.
32. Practitioners must advise their opponents at an early stage of the proceedings of potentially discoverable electronically stored information and meet to agree upon matters including:
  - (a) the format of the electronic database for the electronic discovery;
  - (b) the protocol to be used for the electronic discovery including electronically stored information;
  - (c) the type and extent of the electronically stored information that is to be discovered; and
  - (d) whether electronically stored information is to be discovered on an agreed without prejudice basis:-
    - (i) without the need to go through the information in detail to categorise it into privileged and non-privileged information; and
    - (ii) without prejudice to an entitlement to subsequently claim privilege over any information that has been discovered and is claimed to be privileged under s 118 and/or s 119 of the *Evidence Act 1995* and/or at common law.
33. At any hearing relating to discovery (including its form and extent), the Court expects practitioners to have:
  - (a) ascertained the probable extent of discoverable documents
  - (b) conferred with their opponents about any issues concerning the preservation and production of discoverable documents including electronically stored information
  - (c) given notice to their opponents of any problems reasonably expected to arise in

- connection with the discovery of electronically stored information, including difficulty in the recovery of deleted or lost data
- (d) given consideration to and conferred in relation to the particular issues involved in the collection, retention and protection of electronically stored information, including:
    - (i) whether the burden and cost involved in discovering a particular document or class of documents is justified having regard to the cost of accessing the document or class of documents and the importance or likely importance of the document or class of documents to the proceedings;
    - (ii) whether particular software or other supporting resources may be required to access electronically stored information;
    - (iii) the manner in which documents are to be electronically formatted so that the integrity of the documents is protected;
    - (iv) whether particular documents need to be discovered in hard copy form (such as original documents or documents larger than A3 in size);
    - (v) how privileged documents should be appropriately protected;
  - (e) given consideration to preparing and, if agreed, prepared a Joint Memorandum signed by the senior practitioners who attended the discovery meeting (and who are to attend the discovery hearing) identifying:
    - (i) areas of agreement on proposed discovery;
    - (ii) areas of disagreement with a brief statement of the reasons therefore; and
    - (iii) respective best estimates of the cost of discovery.
34. The Court will make orders for discovery having regard to the overriding purpose of the just, quick and cheap resolution of the disputes between the parties.
35. For the purposes of ensuring that the most cost efficient method of discovery is adopted by the parties, on the application of any party or of its own motion, the Court may limit the amount of costs of discovery that are able to be recovered by any party.

## **Evidence**

36. With the exception of evidence in support of interlocutory applications, the former practice of filing evidence as case preparation occurs is to cease. Timetables for case preparation should include provision for the serving of evidence on the other parties but not filing it with the Court. Evidence to be relied upon at trial will only be filed with the Court at the time provided for in the Usual Order for Hearing.
37. Evidence to be relied upon in support of interlocutory applications is to be served on the other parties and filed with the Court. Timetables for preparation of such applications should include provision for that process.
38. The former practice of annexing or exhibiting documents to affidavits or statements will only be permitted in interlocutory applications and otherwise with the leave of the Court or pursuant to agreement between the parties.
39. In the preparation of evidence to be relied upon at trial any documents referred to in any statement or affidavit are to be placed into the proposed Court Book in chronological order.



40. Subject to an order of the Court or unless otherwise agreed between the parties, the Proposed Court Book is to be established in electronic form.
41. Prior to the preparation of a timetable for the serving of evidence the parties are to agree on the manner in which the electronic form of Court Book (the Electronic Court Book) is to be established including, where it is to be established; which party/parties (or third party) will manage it and its format. Such agreement should be recorded in the Short Minutes of Order for the preparation of the evidence in the proceedings.
42. Electronic Court Book is to be produced at trial. A hard copy of only those parts of the Electronic Court Book that will be essential for the Court to consider in determining the dispute between the parties is also to be produced at trial.

### **Orders for reference**

43. Consideration should be given throughout the course of proceedings as to whether any questions are appropriate for referral to a referee for inquiry and report.
44. Where questions are appropriate to be referred to a referee for inquiry and report, the parties should:
  - (a) formulate the questions with precision and
  - (b) inform the Court of:
    - (i) the identity of an agreed referee or, if no agreement can be reached, the referee each suggests
    - (ii) the date on which the referee can commence the reference
    - (iii) the expected duration of the reference and
    - (iv) the anticipated date for delivery of the report.
45. An order made for reference to a referee for inquiry and report will normally be in the form of the Usual Order for Reference set out in Annexure 2.
46. Consent Orders for amendment to the matters referred to the Referee in the Schedule to the Usual Order for Reference may be filed with the List Judge's Associate in writing for the making of such order in Chambers. Any contested amendments are to be heard in the Motions List on Fridays.

### **Representation**

47. Each party not appearing in person shall be represented at any directions hearing by a barrister or a solicitor familiar with the subject matter of the proceedings and with instructions sufficient to enable all appropriate orders and directions to be made.
48. Practitioners should have communicated prior to the directions hearing with a view to agreement on directions to propose to the Court and preparation of short minutes recording the directions.

### **Urgent applications and liberty to apply**

49. A party seeking ex parte or urgent orders or directions prior to the commencement of proceedings or in the course of the proceedings should telephone the Commercial List

Judge's Associate, who will advise the party of the Judge to whom application should be made.

50. Parties have general liberty to apply and may cause proceedings to be listed at a directions hearing prior to a specified future directions hearing. A party seeking to do so should make prior arrangement with, or give appropriate notice to, any other party, and should send a fax to the List Judge's Associate who will advise the date for listing.

### **Listing for hearing**

51. Where the whole, or any part, of the proceedings is/are to be heard by the Court, a date for hearing may be fixed prior to completion of interlocutory steps.
52. Proceedings will be fixed for hearing during a directions hearing in the Lists on Friday at which time the Court should be provided with a realistic estimate of the hearing time required and where there is to be an application for a stopwatch hearing, paragraphs 53 to 56 are applicable. Upon fixing a date for hearing the Court will normally direct that the Usual Order for Hearing set out in Annexure 3 shall apply, with or without modification.

### **Stopwatch Hearings**

53. An option for matters that are heard by the Court and/or referred to Referees is the stopwatch method of trial or reference hearing. In advance of the trial or reference, the Court will make orders in respect of the estimated length of the trial or reference and the amount of time each party is permitted to utilise. The orders will allocate blocks of time to the aspects of the respective cases for examination in chief, cross-examination, re-examination and submissions. If it is in the interests of justice, the allocation of time will be adjusted by the Court or the Referee to accommodate developments in the trial or reference.
54. This method of hearing is aimed at achieving a more cost effective resolution of the real issues between the parties. It will require more intensive planning by counsel and solicitors prior to trial including conferring with opposing solicitors and counsel to ascertain estimates of time for cross-examination of witnesses and submissions to be built in to the estimate for hearing.
55. Any party wishing to have a stopwatch hearing must notify the other party/parties in writing prior to the matter being set down for hearing or reference out. At the time the matter is set down for hearing or referred out to a Referee it is expected that solicitors or counsel briefed on hearing will be able to advise the Court:
  - (a) whether there is consent to a stopwatch hearing; and
  - (b) if there is no consent, the reasons why there should not be a stopwatch hearing.
56. If there is consent to a stopwatch hearing counsel and/or solicitors must be in a position to advise the Court of:
  - (a) the joint estimate of the time for the hearing of the matter; and
  - (b) the way in which the time is to be allocated to each party and for what aspect of the case.

## Experts

57. The use of a single expert or a Court Appointed Expert and/or the concurrent evidence of experts is encouraged in suitable cases. The parties are to confer as early as practicable with a view to reaching agreement as to whether the use of such an expert or the concurrent evidence of experts is appropriate and, if agreed, the inclusion of such appointment and/or adoption of concurrent evidence should be accommodated in the timetable for the preparation for hearing.
58. Where experts' reports have been or are to be served (whether or not pursuant to an order or direction of the Court) the Court will, unless otherwise persuaded, direct, upon such terms as it thinks fit, that the parties cause the experts or some of them to confer with a view to identification of and a proper understanding of any points of difference between them and the reasons therefore and a narrowing of such points of difference. The Court may, at the same time or subsequently, direct that the parties and/or the experts prepare an agreed statement of the points of agreement, and of difference remaining, between experts following such conference and the reasons therefore (see Schedule 7 of the UCPR).

## Proportionate Liability

59. Any party in proceedings involving an apportionable claim, who has reasonable grounds to believe that a particular person may be a concurrent wrongdoer in relation to the claim(s) must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to all other parties to the proceedings of:
  - (a) the identity of that person and
  - (b) the alleged circumstances that may make that person a concurrent wrongdoer.

## Costs

60. Unless otherwise ordered, a party in whose favour an order for costs is made may proceed to assessment of such costs forthwith.
61. The cost of unnecessary photocopying and assembly of documents is unacceptable. It is incumbent on the lawyers for the parties to carefully consider the documents necessary to be included in the tender bundle. Excessive documents may attract adverse costs orders.

## Mediation

62. The parties should be aware of the provisions of Part 4 of the CPA and relevant parts of the UCPR relating to mediation.
63. It is expected that prior to the commencement of proceedings in the Lists, the parties will have considered referral of their disputes to mediation. It is also expected that the lawyers, or the litigant if not legally represented, will be in a position to advise the Court on the first return date of the Summons whether:
  - (a) the parties have attempted mediation; and
  - (b) their respective clients are willing to proceed to mediation at an appropriate time.

64. If a matter is referred to mediation by consent and/or by an order pursuant to the section 26 of the CPA, the parties are to ensure that the person(s) who is (are) able to make a decision as to whether the matter settles is present personally or by authorised nominee(s) at the mediation.

### **Summary judgment**

65. As a general rule applications to strike out or for summary judgment will not be entertained. Sometimes applications are appropriate, but Practitioners should expect strictness in declining to entertain such applications.

### **Use of technology**

66. The use is encouraged, where appropriate, of technology permitting the taking of evidence in, or other conduct of, proceedings by video link or conference telephone and the management of documents and transcript. Practitioners should propose the use of such technology when appropriate, and the Court may give directions involving its use: for example, in major cases with a view to statements, documents and transcript being available to all concerned on a common data base.

### **Communications with the Court**

67. Other than in open Court, practitioners and self-represented litigants may only communicate with a judge through the judge's associate or through the List Judge's Associate. All such communications should be confined to uncontroversial matters. Communication with an associate must not engage the associate in a dispute, seek to make submissions via the associate or seek legal or procedural advice. Telephone communication should be avoided unless necessary in the circumstances.
68. Any person writing to an associate must, except for communications relating to a proposed proceeding or an application to be made without notice to any other party, simultaneously send a copy to each other party to the proceeding.

**The Hon. A S Bell**  
Chief Justice of New South Wales  
26 February 2025

## **Related Information**

See also:

Supreme Court Practice Note SC Gen 1 – Application of Practice Notes

Supreme Court Practice Note SC Gen 6 - Mediation

Supreme Court Practice Note SC Gen 7 – Use of technology

Supreme Court Practice Note SC Gen 10 – Single expert witness

Supreme Court Practice Note SC Gen 11 – Joint conferences of expert witnesses

Supreme Court Practice Note SC Gen 23 – Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

*Civil Procedure Act 2005*

*Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 2005*

*Supreme Court Rules 1970*

## **Amendment History**

26 February 2025: This Practice Note replaces the previous version of SC Eq 3 that was issued on 22 March 2023.

22 March 2023: This Practice Note replaces the previous version of SC Eq 3 that was issued on 23 September 2019.

23 September 2019: This Practice Note replaces the previous version of SC Eq 3 that was issued on 10 December 2008.

10 December 2008: This Practice Note replaces Practice Note SC Eq 3 issued on 20 July 2007. Practice Note SC Eq 3 issued on 20 July 2007 replaced the Note issued 1 September 2006. Practice Note SC Eq 3 issued on 1 September 2006 replaced the Note issued on 17 August 2005.

Practice Note SC Eq 3 issued on 17 August 2005 replaced Former Practice Note No. 100.

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## ANNEXURE 1

[LIST] STATEMENT [OR] LIST CROSS CLAIM STATEMENT

[LIST] RESPONSE [OR] LIST CROSS CLAIM RESPONSE

- A. NATURE OF DISPUTE
  - B. ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE
  - C. PLAINTIFF'S [or CROSS CLAIMANT'S] CONTENTIONS  
[or C DEFENDANT'S [or CROSS DEFENDANT'S] RESPONSES TO CONTENTIONS which should include reference to any relief claimed in the Summons or Cross Summons that are admitted, not admitted or denied.
  - D. QUESTIONS APPROPRIATE FOR REFERRAL TO A REFEREE
  - E. A STATEMENT AS TO WHETHER THE PARTIES HAVE ATTEMPTED MEDIATION; WHETHER THE PARTY IS WILLING TO PROCEED TO MEDIATION AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.
- 

## ANNEXURE 2

### USUAL ORDER FOR REFERENCE

- 1. Pursuant to Part 20 rule 14 of the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules (the "UCPR"), refer to *[state name of referee]* for enquiry and report the matter in the Schedule hereto.
- 2. Direct that (without affecting the powers of the Court as to costs) the parties, namely *[state relevant parties]*, be jointly and severally liable to the referee for the fees payable to him.
- 3. Direct that the parties deliver to the referee forthwith a copy of this order together with a copy of Division 3 of Part 20 of the UCPR.
- 4. Direct that:
  - 4.1 subject to paras 4.2 and 4.3 hereof, the provisions of Pt 20 r 20 shall apply to the conduct of proceedings under the reference;
  - 4.2 the reference will commence on *[date]* unless otherwise ordered by the referee;
  - 4.3 the referee consider and implement such manner of conducting proceedings under the reference as will, without undue formality or delay, enable a just determination to be made including, if the referee thinks fit:
    - 4.3.1 the making of inquiries by telephone;
    - 4.3.2 site inspection;
    - 4.3.3 inspection of plant and equipment; and
    - 4.3.4 communication with experts retained on behalf of the party

- 4.4 any evidence in chief before the referee shall, unless the referee otherwise permits, be by way of written statements signed by the maker of the statement;
- 4.5 the referee submit the report to the Court in accordance with Pt 20 r 23 addressed to the Equity Division Registrar on or before [date].
5. Amendments to the Schedule, whether by agreement or on a contested basis, are to be the subject of an order made by the Court.
6. If for any reason the Referee is unable to comply with the Order for delivery of the report to the Court by the date in this Usual Order for Reference, the Referee is to provide to the List Judge an Interim Report setting out the reasons for such inability and an application to extend the time within which to deliver the report to the Court to a date when the Referee will be able to provide the Report.
7. Grant liberty to the referee or any party to seek directions with respect to any matter arising in proceedings under the reference upon application made on 24 hours' notice or such less notice ordered by the Court.
8. Reserve costs of the proceedings.
9. Stand the proceedings over for further directions on [date].

### **SCHEDULE**

The whole of the proceedings; or

The following questions arising in the proceedings, namely *[state the questions]*.

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### **ANNEXURE 3**

#### **USUAL ORDER FOR HEARING**

##### **Experts' Reports**

1. In any case in which there is expert evidence to be relied upon by the parties, the experts are to meet no later than three weeks before trial for the purpose of reaching agreement on as many issues as possible and producing:
  - 1.1 a joint report; and
  - 1.2 any separate report(s) dealing with those matters that are unable to be agreed.
2. The joint report and any separate report(s) are to be filed and served no later than five working days before trial.
3. In cases in which expert evidence is to be given concurrently, the experts are to meet no later than three weeks prior to trial for the purpose of producing:
  - 3.1 a joint report;

- 3.2 any separate report(s) dealing with those matters that are unable to be agreed;  
and
  - 3.3 a draft agenda for discussion of the contested issues in the concurrent evidence session at trial.
4. The joint report and any separate report(s) and the draft agenda are to be filed and served no later than 5 working days before trial.

### **Affidavits and Statements**

5. Where no directions have been given for the service of affidavits or statements of evidence, each party shall, not less than 28 days before the date fixed for hearing, serve on each other party a statement of the evidence proposed to be led from each witness to be called by that party, signed by the proposed witness, unless the Court otherwise orders.
6. Where directions have been given for the service of affidavits or statements of evidence, or where paragraph 2 of this order applies:
  - 6.1 a party who fails to comply with an order made for the service of affidavits or statements of evidence, or with paragraph 2 of this order, may not adduce evidence to which the order, or paragraph 2 of this order, applies without the leave of the Court;
  - 6.2 at least 14 days before the date fixed for hearing each party shall, by notice in writing to each other party, state whether he or she proposes to object to the whole or any part of any affidavit or statement of evidence and the grounds for the objections;
  - 6.3 the Court may, on such terms as it thinks fit, direct that the statement of evidence served, or part of it, stand as the evidence in chief of the witness, or as part of such evidence;
  - 6.4 if the affidavit is not read or the maker of the statement of evidence is not called as a witness, no other party may put the affidavit or statement in evidence without the leave of the Court;
  - 6.5 if the affidavit is read or the maker of the statement of evidence called as a witness, then save in relation to new matters which have arisen in the course of the trial, the party serving the affidavit or statement may not lead evidence from the deponent or the maker of the statement of evidence (as the case may be), the substance of which is not included in the affidavit or statement of evidence served without the leave of the Court;
  - 6.6 whether or not the affidavit or statement of evidence or any part of it is used in evidence by the party calling the witness, if the deponent or the maker of the statement of evidence is called as a witness any other party may use the affidavit or statement of evidence or any part of it in cross-examination of the witness unless the Court otherwise orders; and
  - 6.7 nothing in this order shall otherwise deprive any party of any proper objection to the admissibility of evidence.



### **Documents –Court Book**

7. In preparing evidence for trial the plaintiff/cross-claimant is to place into the Electronic Court Book in chronological order all documents referred to in any affidavit or statement proposed to be relied upon at trial. The method of numbering of documents in the Electronic Court Book must ensure that the numbers allocated to documents do not change.
8. In responding to the plaintiff's/cross-claimant's evidence, the defendant/cross-defendant is to place into the Electronic Court Book all documents not already included that are referred to in any affidavits or statements proposed to be relied upon at trial.
9. By no later than six weeks before the date fixed for hearing each party must notify each other party in writing of any additional documents that party proposes should be included in the Electronic Court Book.
10. Within 10 working days thereafter each party shall advise each other party in writing:
  - 10.1 which of the specified additional documents may be included in the Electronic Court Book by consent;
  - 10.2 whether the authenticity of any document, and if so which, is disputed; and
  - 10.3 insofar as any document (already included and/or proposed to be included) may not be included in the Electronic Court Book by consent the grounds for the objection to its inclusion.
11. Not later than three weeks prior to the date fixed for hearing all documents, whether by consent or otherwise, sought to be relied upon by all parties are to be included in the proposed Electronic Court Book in chronological order.
12. If any party requires the tender of an original document, notice in writing should be given to all other parties no later than four weeks before the date fixed for hearing.

### **Filing with the Court**

13. No later than five working days before the hearing the plaintiff shall file a paginated and indexed Court Book in electronic form and deliver two physical copies of the Court Book to the List Judge's Associate or, if the Trial Judge is known, to the Trial Judge's Associate. The Court Book is to consist of all documents intended to be relied upon by any party. They are to be chronologically sequenced as far as practicable and sequentially numbered. They are to be in working lever arch binders, each of which is not to be filled beyond its capacity, and they are to be punched with two holes. They are to be printed double sided.
14. No later than two working days before the hearing the parties shall deliver to the List Judge's Associate, or if the Trial Judge is known, to the Trial Judge's Associate, a folder of all affidavits, statements and reports to be relied upon at trial with an index setting out in alphabetical order:
  - 14.1 the name of the deponent or maker of the statement or report;
  - 14.2 the date of the affidavit, statement or report; and
  - 14.3 a short statement identifying the role of the deponent or the maker of the statement or report.

Each lay affidavit which refers to documents must include cross references to where those documents can be found in the court book

15. No later than two working days before the hearing the parties shall cause to be filed ***and*** emailed to the List Judge's Associate or, if the Trial Judge is known, the Trial Judge's Associate:

- a short outline of submissions;
- a statement of the real issues for determination;
- a list of authorities;
- a chronology of relevant events;
- a trial plan; and
- a list of any objections to any affidavits or expert reports of the counterpart.

# Walama List Sentencing Procedure

## Preamble

1. This Practice Note establishes an alternative procedure for managing cases involving eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons charged with criminal offences before the District Court of New South Wales, to be known as the “**Walama List**”.

## Commencement

2. This Practice Note commences at Sydney District Court on 3 March 2025.

## Application

3. This Practice Note applies to matters committed for sentence or where a plea of guilty has been entered upon arraignment after 1 December 2021.

## Introduction

4. The aims of the Walama List are to:
  - (a) reduce the risk factors related to re-offending by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders;
  - (b) reduce the rate of breaches of court orders by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders;
  - (c) increase compliance with court orders by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders;
  - (d) reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in custody in NSW;
  - (e) increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community participation and confidence in the criminal justice system; and
  - (f) facilitate a better understanding of any underlying issues which may increase the likelihood of re-offending.

5. The Walama List will seek to achieve these aims by:
  - (a) enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community participation in the court process and embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander narratives in the sentencing process;
  - (b) utilising culturally appropriate programs and supports to address needs and risk factors that may impact on an offender's continued involvement with the criminal justice system; and
  - (c) facilitating continuous court monitoring of appropriate therapeutic interventions to address identified needs and risk factors.

### **Definitions**

6. In this Practice Note:

“Court” means the District Court of New South Wales.

### **Nomination of Walama List Judge(s)**

7. The Chief Judge of the District Court will nominate at least one Judge as a “**Walama List Judge**”.

### **Sittings of the Walama List**

8. The Walama List will operate at Sydney District Court at Central.
9. A Walama List Judge will hear all Walama List matters during a seven-day period per calendar month. All Walama List matters are to be listed in the same period during the relevant month.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

10. To be referred to the Walama List, an offender must:
  - (a) have pleaded guilty to the offence(s) they have been charged with, either:
    - in the Local Court; or
    - in the District Court before a trial date is first fixed;
  - (b) have signed an Agreed Statement of Facts;

- (c) be descended from: an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander person, identify as an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander person, and be accepted as such by the relevant community; and
- (d) have an understanding of and be willing to participate in the Walama List sentencing procedure.
11. An offender is not eligible for referral to the Walama List if he or she is charged with an offence set out in the Schedule to this Practice Note.
12. Only matters committed from Local Court venues in the Greater Sydney Area are eligible for referral to the Walama List.
13. Notwithstanding that an offender is otherwise assessed as suitable, the Court may decline to accept him or her into the Walama List or discharge him or her from the Walama List at any time.

#### **Listing of Cases Referred to the Walama List**

14. Where a matter has been committed for sentence to the District Court, and the offender meets the eligibility criteria, the legal representative for the offender is to make an **Application for Referral to the Walama List** on the date of first mention in the District Court. Where an eligible offender has made an Application for Referral, the presiding Judge must adjourn the proceedings for ballot mention to the Walama List, after consultation with a Walama List Judge to ascertain availability.
15. Where an offender has entered a plea of guilty after committal to the District Court and an Application for Referral is made by the offender, the presiding Judge must adjourn the proceedings for ballot mention to the Walama List, after consultation with a Walama List Judge to ascertain availability.
16. In the ordinary course, and subject to available listings, the matters are to be listed for mention on the next available Walama List mention date using the Walama List Diary.

### **Stage 1: First Mention in the Walama List**

17. The **first mention** in the Walama List is to be attended by a representative for the Prosecution, the legal representative(s) for the offender, the offender, a representative from the Aboriginal Services Unit (“ASU”) Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, DCJ and a Walama List Judge.
18. At the first mention in the Walama List, case management orders will be made as follows:
  - (a) the Prosecution is to serve and file the Crown bundle no later than 3 business days prior to the second mention date in the Walama List.
19. The matter will then be adjourned for a **second mention** during the next Walama List mention date.

### **Stage 2: Completion of Intake Documentation**

20. Between the first mention in the Walama List and the second mention in the Walama List, a representative of the ASU assisting the Walama List is to interview the offender and complete the “**initial intake documentation**”.

### **Stage 3: Second Mention in the Walama List**

21. At the second mention in the Walama List, the Prosecution bundle will be formally tendered, and case management orders made as follows:
  - (a) the Defence bundle, including any psychiatric or psychological material, is to be served and filed no later than seven business days prior to the Introductory Conversation.
22. The matter will then be adjourned for an “**Introductory Conversation**” during the next Walama List sittings. The **Introductory Conversation** will be facilitated by a Walama List Judge, and subject to the discretion of the Judge, may be attended by:
  - a) the offender and the offender’s legal representative(s);

- b) the Prosecution;
- c) two Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Elders or Respected Persons nominated by a Walama List Judge in consultation with a representative of the ASU;
- d) an allocated Community Corrections Officer and/or case workers from other nominated government and non-government support services;
- e) a support person for the offender at the discretion of a Walama List Judge;
- f) a representative of the ASU; and
- g) any other person a Walama List Judge considers appropriate.

23. The matter will then be adjourned for an **Introductory Conversation** during the next Walama List sittings.

#### **Stage 4: The Introductory Conversation**

24. The **Introductory Conversation** will be facilitated by a Walama List Judge and, subject to the discretion of the Judge, may be attended by:

- (a) the offender and the offender's legal representative(s);
- (b) the Prosecution;
- (c) an allocated Community Corrections Officer and/or case workers from other nominated government and non-government support services;
- (d) two Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Elders or Respected Persons nominated by a Walama List Judge in consultation with a representative of the ASU where a Walama List Judge considers they are likely to be of significant assistance to him or her;
- (e) any support person for the offender at the discretion of a Walama List Judge;
- (f) a representative of the ASU; and
- (g) any other person a Walama List Judge considers appropriate, including but not limited to: representation from Corrective Services, Justice Health, any victim(s) and their support person.

25. The proceedings are to be open to the public unless a closed court is required by law.
26. The purpose of the **Introductory Conversation** is to discuss:
- (a) the offender's background;
  - (b) the offender's need for treatment and/or a rehabilitation program, and the availability of a suitable program/s;
  - (c) the offender's willingness to comply with a **Walama Case Plan**; and
  - (d) any other matter relevant to sentencing.
27. At the **Introductory Conversation** a Walama List Judge may:
- (a) impose conditions on the offender's bail requiring the offender to submit to assessments for a rehabilitation program as required;
  - (b) impose conditions on the offender's bail requiring the offender to commence participation in any rehabilitation program and/or submit to drug and/or alcohol testing;
  - (c) nominate support agencies and/or case workers to work with the offender as required;
  - (d) make orders for further reports and updated reports; and
  - (e) make any other orders necessary to facilitate the formulation of the **Walama Case Plan**, to be finalised at the next court date.
28. The matter will then be adjourned for a Case Plan Conversation during the next monthly sitting.

### **Stage 5: Preparation of draft Walama Case Plan**

29. A "**Walama Case Plan**" will be formulated to meet the particular needs and risk factors relevant to the individual offender and may include a combination of culturally appropriate rehabilitation programs; counselling, physical and mental health therapies; and/or other programs and support services as appropriate.
30. Between the **Introductory Conversation** and the first **Case Plan Conversation**, the participant's legal representative, case worker and/or



Community Corrections Officer will facilitate the preparation of a draft **Walama Case Plan**. This may involve interviewing the offender and their legal representative, identifying any existing case workers and other supports (including treatment providers) that the offender wishes to continue to engage with, and obtaining contact details to notify existing service providers of the offender's next court date in the Walama List.

31. A case worker may be a NSW Community Corrections Officer or a case worker from a community organisation.

### **Stage 6: Case Plan Conversation**

32. At the first **Case Plan Conversation**, the draft **Walama Case Plan** will be discussed and finalised subject to any required modifications identified. **Case Plan Conversations** are to be conducted by a Walama List Judge with as little formality as possible, in the presence of:
  - (a) the offender and the offender's legal representative(s);
  - (b) the Prosecution;
  - (c) an allocated Community Corrections Officer and/or case workers from other nominated government and non-government support services;
  - (d) two Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Elders or Respected Persons nominated by a Walama List Judge in consultation with a representative of the ASU where a Walama List Judge considers they are likely to be of significant assistance to him or her;
  - (e) a support person for the offender at the discretion of a Walama List Judge;
  - (f) a representative of the ASU; and
  - (g) any other person a Walama List Judge considers appropriate, including but not limited to: representation from Corrective Services; Justice Health; any victim(s); and their support person.
33. At the first or any subsequent **Case Plan Conversation**, the Prosecution will lead a discussion with the offender with regard to:
  - a. the nature of the offending behaviour;

- b. the implications of that offending behaviour on the victim(s), the offender's family and community.
34. A Walama List Judge may successively adjourn the proceedings part-heard for a period of up to 12 months for the purpose of ongoing **Case Plan Conversations**, or where justified, an extension for a further period but such that the total period is not longer than 24 months (absent exceptional circumstances).
35. The purposes of ongoing **Case Plan Conversations** are to:
- (a) monitor the suitability and effectiveness of the offender's **Walama Case Plan**;
  - (b) monitor the offender's participation in the **Walama Case Plan** to ensure compliance; and
  - (c) determine whether the **Walama Case Plan** requires modification.
36. The frequency of the **Case Plan Conversations** will be determined by a Walama List Judge in consultation with the offender's legal representatives and the Prosecution.
37. Where an offender breaches a condition of their **Walama Case Plan**, the offender is to be called up before a the Walama List Judge. Without limiting the penalties available at law, a Walama List Judge may:
- (a) take no action on the breach; and/or
  - (b) make changes to the offender's **Walama Case Plan**; and/or
  - (c) discharge the offender from the Walama List sentencing procedure; and/or
  - (d) proceed to sentence the offender or adjourn the case for sentence to a later date.
38. Before an offender is discharged from the Walama List sentencing procedure, a Walama List Judge may convene for the purpose of a further **Case Plan Conversation** in the presence of community Elders or Respected Persons.

39. If the offender informs a Walama List Judge that he or she wishes to cease participation in the Walama List sentencing procedure, a Walama List Judge may:
- (a) note on the court file that consent to participate in the Walama List sentencing procedure has been withdrawn;
  - (b) adjourn the case for sentence;
  - (c) direct the preparation of a Sentencing Assessment Report if such a report has not previously been ordered; and
  - (d) determine whether the offender is to be sentenced by a Walama List Judge or returned to the General List for allocation of an appropriate sentence date before any District Court Judge.

### **Stage 7: Sentencing**

40. Upon the offender's completion of the **Walama Case Plan**, a Walama List Judge is to sentence the offender in open court (unless a closed court is required by law).
41. The sentencing options available to a Walama List Judge are those available at law.

### **Role of Elders and Respected Persons**

42. In order to significantly assist a Walama List Judge in sentencing, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and Respected Persons will attend **Introductory** and **Case Plan Conversations**, so that they may:
- a. provide cultural and community advice to a Walama List Judge;
  - b. assist a Walama List Judge to understand the offender's cultural heritage, history and norms;
  - c. offer support and advice to a Walama List Judge on how the offender could improve connections with his or her culture and community; and
  - d. assist a Walama List Judge to identify culturally significant issues and culturally appropriate programs or supports that might be included in the **Walama Case Plan**.

43. Elders and Respected Persons will not participate in the determination of the sentence to be imposed or any determination as to bail.

**Evaluation**

BOCSAR is conducting an evaluation of the Walama List Sentencing Procedure. See link: <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/about-us/research-strategy/our-research-projects-and-partners/evaluating-the-walama-list-pilot.html>

Legal representatives are to obtain instructions as to their client's consent to participate in the evaluation. See consent form link:

[https://districtcourt.nsw.gov.au/documents/practice-notes/Walama\\_List\\_Evaluation\\_Participant\\_Consent\\_Form\\_Sep\\_23.pdf](https://districtcourt.nsw.gov.au/documents/practice-notes/Walama_List_Evaluation_Participant_Consent_Form_Sep_23.pdf)



The Hon. Justice S Huggett  
Chief Judge of the District Court of New South Wales  
19 February 2025

## **Schedule** of offences not eligible for referral to the Walama List:

- i) A prescribed sexual offence as defined by s 3 of the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* (NSW);
- ii) An offence contrary to s 33 of the *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW);
- iii) An offence contrary to s 37(2) of the *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW);
- iv) An offence contrary to ss 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 of the *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW);
- v) An offence which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.