



SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND

Practice Note

To:	Legal practitioners appearing in the Supreme Court at Townsville
From:	Justice Johnstone
Subject:	Civil Proceedings commenced by Claim in the Supreme Court Registry in Townsville
Date:	25 June 2026

This practice note applies to civil proceedings commenced by claim in the Supreme Court registry in Townsville.

1. This practice note is to be read in conjunction with Amended Practice Direction Number 9 of 2023, "Caseflow Management – Civil Jurisdiction."
2. Presently, when a civil proceeding is commenced, the Court lists the matter shortly after a Notice of Intention to Defend has been filed for the purposes of setting directions to assist in the efficient management of the matter to trial.
3. The Court expects parties to cooperate in the efficient management of proceedings and, where possible, to agree upon directions for the future conduct of the matter.
4. Where parties have reached agreement as to the directions for the management of the proceeding, the plaintiff should prepare draft directions to be made by consent and email them to townsville.hcregistry@justice.qld.gov.au for the attention of the Associate to Johnstone J.
5. Draft consent directions should:
 - (a) be in Microsoft Word;
 - (b) provide a timetable for the completion of all interlocutory steps necessary to prepare the matter for trial if the matter is to be listed for trial, or, at least to the point of mediation;
 - (c) if the matter is to be mediated, provide for a further directions hearing on a date to be nominated by the court after the proposed date for mediation; and
 - (d) if the matter is to be listed for trial, nominate an estimated length of trial or otherwise include a date after which the matter will be listed for further directions.
6. If the consent directions are satisfactory to the Court, the directions hearing will ordinarily be vacated. The parties will receive notice of this from the Associate to Johnstone J or the Registrar.
7. Nothing in this practice note is to be taken as precluding any party from making an application in a proceeding in the usual way.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Johnstone".

The Honourable Justice Christopher Johnstone
Northern Judge
Supreme Court of Queensland, Townsville.