

Magistrates Courts

Practice Direction No. 3 of 2015

Proceedings using video link facilities and audio link facilities

1. The purpose of this Practice Direction is to provide, in accordance with section 15A of the *Bail Act 1980* (Bail Act) and sections 23EC and 178C of the *Justices Act 1886* (JA), for alternative courts to hear proceedings by video link facilities or audio link facilities.
2. In this Practice Direction “original court” and “alternative court” have the same meaning as in section 15A of the Bail Act and section 23EC JA.
3. This Practice Direction authorises proceedings that would ordinarily be heard by an original court in a district or division set out in Column 1 to be heard by a magistrate constituting a Magistrate’s Court at a location listed in Column 2 of the corresponding row in the table.

Column 1 Original courts	Column 2 Alternative courts
Cleveland District Redcliffe District	Brisbane Central
Cairns District Cooktown District Innisfail District Thursday Island District	Cairns Brisbane Central
Charters Towers District Cloncurry District Hughenden District Mount Isa District Townsville District	Townsville Brisbane Central
Bowen District Bundaberg District Clermont District Emerald District Gladstone District Longreach District Mackay District Rockhampton District	Mackay Rockhampton Brisbane Central
Caboolture District Gympie District Hervey Bay District Kingaroy District	Caboolture Kingaroy Maroochydore Brisbane Central

Maroochydore District Maryborough District	
Beaudesert District Beenleigh District Gold Coast District	Southport Beenleigh Brisbane Central
Charleville District Cunnamulla District Dalby District Goondiwindi District Ipswich District Roma District Stanthorpe District Toowoomba District Warwick District Richlands Division of the Brisbane District	Ipswich Toowoomba Brisbane Central

4. The alternative court may conduct the proceedings by using video link facilities or audio link facilities if the circumstances in section 178C(1) of the JA apply.
5. In the absence of local arrangements as advised by the court, any proceedings should be directed during court sitting times to the closest available alternative court to the original court. A prior enquiry should be made to confirm the availability of a sitting magistrate at the proposed location.
6. This Practice Direction repeals Practice Direction No. 6 of 2014.



Judge Orazio Rinaudo
Chief Magistrate
18 December 2015