

SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND

COMMERCIAL LIST NOTE ABOUT ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT FILING AND MANAGEMENT

Purpose

1. This Note supplements the Commercial List Practice Direction 1 of 2023 and outlines a process for electronic document filing and management of proceedings on the Commercial List.

Scope

2. This Note applies to existing and future proceedings on the Commercial List.
3. Nothing in this Note is to be taken as removing or limiting the discretion of the Court.

Electronic document filing protocol

4. As from 30 January 2023, parties are to use the Objective Connect file sharing platform to file documents in proceedings on the Commercial List, unless a Judge or Registrar otherwise directs.
5. When a proceeding is placed on the Commercial List, each of the parties to the matter will receive an invitation to register and create a workspace in Objective Connect. The invitation will be sent to the parties by the Registrar via email.
6. Upon receipt of the invitation each party will be required to complete the relevant steps to create a workspace on Objective Connect.
7. Parties to matters that were placed on the Commercial List before 30 January 2023 will receive an invitation to register and create a workspace in Objective Connect for the purpose of filing documents after 30 January 2023.
8. Objective Connect is a file sharing platform which allows sharing of documents with external parties. Users can create private workspaces and invite participants in the cloud in a matter of seconds.
9. Further guidance on the Objective Connect platform can be obtained from the Commercial List Manager.

10. The Objective Connect platform is being used as an alternative to the less convenient former process under Practice Direction 21 of 2016 of providing electronic copies of filed documents on a USB. The USB process did not relieve the parties from the requirement to file hard copy documents in the Registry (unless relieved from the obligation to do so by a Court Order). Nor does the Objective Connect process.
11. It does, however, make the case management process much more efficient for the Court, facilitate trials being conducted as eTrials, and thereby save parties time and costs.
12. The Government is rolling out and trialling a new system for electronic filing of documents that will relieve parties of the obligation to file hard copy documents in various courts and tribunals. That system will come to the Supreme Court and be supported by future amendments to the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules, 1999 (Qld) and to this Note.
13. The requirement to file an electronic copy as well as a hard copy does not apply to the filing by Mediators of Mediation Certificates. Mediators need only file a hard copy of the certificate.