

Attendance at a chaired without prejudice conference other than in person

The following are examples of circumstances in which the ADR Registrar might grant leave for a person to appear remotely at a conference, such as where the person:

- resides interstate, excluding northern NSW;
- resides within Qld or northern NSW, but will take more than 2½ hours drive (one-way) to the place where the conference is to be held;
- resides overseas, or is travelling overseas;
- has been directed to quarantine due to COVID-19;
- is pending the result of a COVID-19 test or has COVID-19 symptoms;
- is generally ill, or needs to care for another person;
- has unavoidable work or family commitments. Best endeavours should be made to avoid such conflicts;
- will have limited involvement in the discussion (not exceeding 15 minutes), such as a consultant or expert addressing a confined issue;
- will not be actively involved in the discussion, such as an assisting solicitor or observer.

This is not an exhaustive list and the decision to grant leave is solely at the discretion of the ADR Registrar.

A request to attend the conference remotely must be supported with a reason for the request.

In order to facilitate a productive conference, parties should appear in person whenever possible. In particular each party should have at least one person present who has the authority to settle the matter, as required by section 45(4) of the *Planning and Environment Court Rules 2018*. Where it is intended to discuss design changes involving close examination of plans, attendance by the relevant experts/consultants works best.