

Practice Direction 3 of 2024

Virtual Preliminary Conference (VPC) Pilot

1. This Practice Direction applies to all proceedings in the Land Court of Queensland and is issued in accordance with s55 of the [Land Court Rules 2022](#).
2. This process presents the opportunity for self-represented appellants to appear virtually at a preliminary conference at a time and date convenient to them.
3. This is a pilot program. A VPC will only be available in Land Valuation appeals where:
 - (a) The value of the land is less than \$5 million;
 - (b) The appellant/s are self-represented;
 - (c) The property is located outside of South-East Queensland. A VPC is not available if the property is located in one of the following Local Government Areas –
 - Brisbane City Council
 - Council of the City of Gold Coast
 - Ipswich City Council
 - Lockyer Valley Council
 - Logan City Council
 - Moreton Bay City Council
 - Noosa Shire Council
 - Redland City Council
 - Scenic Rim Regional Council
 - Somerset Regional Council
 - Sunshine Coast Regional Council

In all other cases, the Court expects that the preliminary conference will be held in-person.



Getting Started

4. Upon filing a [Form 03 – Notice of Appeal against the Valuer-General's decision on objection](#), the appellant will receive an acknowledgement letter containing details of the VPC and a link to the Land Court Bookings page.
5. If the appellant wants to have a VPC¹, they must have:
 - (a) Access to Microsoft Teams via the app or online browser;
 - (b) A reliable internet connection;
 - (c) A microphone;
 - (d) A speaker or headset;
 - (e) A camera.
6. Appellants can book a VPC using the link provided in the acknowledgement letter to access the online booking form.
7. The dates and times on which a VPC is available are predetermined.
8. Once the booking form is completed and submitted, the appellant and the Court will receive a confirmation email of the date and time for the VPC.
9. The link to the MS Teams VPC will be contained in the confirmation email.
10. Upon receiving the confirmation email, the Court will forward the VPC booking details to the Valuer-General's representative.

During the VPC

11. Each VPC will be for one (1) hour.
12. During the VPC, the parties must:
 - (a) Ensure minimal background noise and/or potential interruptions;
 - (b) Identify all persons present, e.g. support person, spokesperson;
 - (c) Have their camera turned on;
 - (d) Have the ability to share the screen if they want to refer to documents.
13. In some cases, the Judicial Registrar will allow the parties to take a short break to allow private discussions. In that case, the parties can mute their microphone and turn off their camera.

¹ A VPC is not mandatory. The appellant can still choose to have an in-person PC. Refer to information contained in the acknowledgement letter.



14. If the Judicial Registrar wants to talk to a party privately, the Deputy Registrar will establish a Virtual Breakout Room which is separate to the main VPC meeting.
15. A VPC cannot be recorded.

After the VPC

16. If the parties settle the dispute, the Deputy Registrar will record the terms of settlement and either email the parties or use the chat function within Microsoft Teams to receive confirmation of the parties' agreement. That document will be printed and placed on the court file as the true and correct record of the agreement.
17. If the parties do not settle the dispute, the procedures outlined in [Practice Direction 1 of 2021 - The Process for Appeals under the Land Valuation Act 2010 \(Amended\)](#) apply.

Commencement

18. This Practice Direction takes effect from Tuesday 2 April 2024.



PG Stilgoe OAM
Acting President
22 March 2024

