

# **SUPREME COURT OF TASMANIA**

## **CIRCULAR TO PRACTITIONERS**

**No. 16 of 2017**

**6 November 2017**

### **CONCENTRATED CRIMINAL TRIAL PERIOD**

**HOBART, 23 APRIL 2018 to 6 JULY 2018**

- 1 For the purpose of reducing the backlog of criminal cases in Hobart, a large number of criminal trials will be listed during a period of 11 consecutive weeks commencing on 23 April 2018.
- 2 At least two judges will sit in Hobart to deal with criminal trials for the whole of that 11-week period.
- 3 The list of cases for the concentrated trial period will be settled and published in advance.
- 4 The Court will endeavour to dispose of every listed case within that 11-week period. If a case cannot be reached on the day for which it is originally listed, it will be adjourned to later in that period unless there are special circumstances warranting a longer adjournment.
- 5 Counsel acting for the prosecution and the defence will be expected to confer well in advance of the commencement of the period, with a view to ensuring that cases are ready to proceed when reached. In the event that a difficulty arises which cannot be resolved by counsel, an application for a directions hearing should be made well before the commencement of the period. Otherwise, it will be assumed that each case listed into the period is ready to proceed when its turn is reached.
- 6 Counsel engaged in a case listed in the concentrated trial period will be expected to ensure his or her availability to conduct the case when its turn is reached, or to arrange alternative representation in sufficient time to allow the trial to proceed. The unavailability of counsel will not ordinarily be considered a sufficient basis for an adjournment.

**The Hon Alan Blow OAM**  
**Chief Justice**