

SUPREME COURT OF TASMANIA

CIRCULAR TO PRACTITIONERS

No 7 of 2017

15 August 2017

EXTENDED AND ADDITIONAL CRIMINAL SITTINGS

This circular supersedes Circular No 4 of 2017, entitled "Reduction of Backlog in Criminal Cases".

Extended sittings

The arrangements for criminal sittings to be extended into a fifth week are to be phased out.

Criminal trials may be listed in Hobart during the week commencing 21 August 2017, which will be the fifth week of the current sittings. Thereafter judges will not routinely sit beyond the fourth week of each criminal sittings in Hobart.

Criminal trials may be listed in Launceston in the fifth week of each sittings up to and including the week commencing 13 November 2017. Thereafter judges will not routinely sit beyond the fourth week of each criminal sittings in Launceston.

Additional judge in crime in Hobart

A judge will ordinarily sit in crime in one of the civil courts in Hobart on each Friday of each criminal sittings, including the fourth Friday. That judge will deal with pleas of guilty, bail applications, contested applications for preliminary proceedings orders, and other miscellaneous criminal business. That judge will sometimes also deal with bail and other matters on an ad hoc basis at other times.

This arrangement has been introduced in order to maximise the time available for the hearing of criminal trials in Courts 7 and 8. It will come into effect on 8 September 2017.

The Hon Alan Blow OAM
Chief Justice