

Introduction of E-hearings

1. The Chief Justice has authorised a pilot program for the conduct of directions hearings electronically, over the internet.
2. Accordingly, directions hearings, including those involving applications, for all matters listed at **10:00 am** on **2 November 2018** in Elliott J's commercial list will be conducted by e-hearing.
3. To explain, each represented party will appear by dialling in to the e-hearing from the office of the legal practitioner or practitioners appearing. Where counsel is appearing on behalf of a party, the instructing solicitor must provide the court with counsel's email address as soon as counsel is briefed. Each practitioner who is appearing will be required to dial in by **9:50 am** on **2 November 2018**, in accordance with the details that will be provided.
4. To facilitate this process, each practitioner will be contacted shortly by a technology assistant. In order to ensure the platform being used will operate satisfactorily, each practitioner will need to identify the computer and internet connection from which they will appear. It is anticipated that testing the computer and connection with the technology assistant will take no more than 5 minutes. At this time, the dial-in details will be provided to the legal practitioner.
5. As for the e-hearings themselves, each legal practitioner will be required to wait in a "lobby" until her or his matter is called. It is not until a legal practitioner has been invited into the e-hearing that she or he will be able to hear or observe the hearing. Accordingly, it is essential that all legal practitioners remain on standby at their computers at all times until their matter is heard.
6. If the client or any instructing solicitor wishes to observe the hearing, it will be necessary for them or their representatives to attend at the office of the legal practitioner who is appearing. If the matter is stood down, then it will be necessary for the legal practitioners who are appearing to re-join the meeting in due course.
7. After the matter is dealt with, the hearing of the matter will be uploaded and available on the internet for at least the remainder of that day. However, by the following Monday, the hearing will be removed from the internet and will not be available thereafter.
8. Practitioners should be prepared to be flexible in respect of any technological issues that may arise during the pilot program.
9. It is expected that the introduction of e-hearings will facilitate the just, efficient, timely and cost-effective resolution of the issues that arise in such hearings.
10. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to send an email to his Honour's associates, copied to all other parties, and a response will be provided promptly.

Associate to Justice Elliott