



Mark Speakman
Attorney General

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 4 August 2017

eSUBPOENAS MAKE ACCESS TO JUSTICE EASIER

Access to justice is now faster, easier and cheaper with a new eSubpoena service enabling people to submit subpoenaed items online to NSW courts, Attorney General Mark Speakman announced today.

The online eSubpoena service is now available for the return of subpoenaed documents to registries across the NSW Supreme, District, Local and Land and Environment Courts for civil matters.

"Justice systems around the world can be slow to adapt to change, but the NSW Government is revolutionising the way clients transact with the courts," Mr Speakman said.

"This secure new online service allows subpoena respondents to electronically submit up to 50 files with a total size of 3GB, removing the need to personally deliver documents to civil registries across the state."

Once legal practitioners file a subpoena form online, respondents can upload the requested documents electronically. Nearly 520 people responding to subpoenas have registered to use the eSubpoena online portal (subpoenaresponse.justice.nsw.gov.au) in its first six weeks of operation.

"Parties can now access the subpoenaed documents online and no longer need to attend the registry to make paper copies. This is significant when you consider more than three million pages in returned subpoenaed documents are photocopied each year at the state's busiest local and district court civil registry at Sydney's John Maddison Tower," Mr Speakman said.

"The change is resulting in major savings in time and money, while improving case management for litigants, practitioners and NSW courts," Mr Speakman said.

The initiative is part of the NSW Government's \$9.2 million Justice Online Project which includes the Online Registry and Online Court. Around 95 per cent of the NSW Local Court's interlocutory civil matters (leading up to in-person hearings) are now managed via Online Court.

More than 755,000 Supreme, District and Local Court forms have been lodged with the Online Registry over the past three years. Almost a quarter of online forms in these courts are now filed outside of registry hours. Last year, the Land and Environment Court joined the Online Registry.