



Local Court of New South Wales

Practice Note – Temporary Court Closure AVL Proceedings

Issued: 4 July 2025

Commences: 7 July 2025

Amended: 1 September 2025

Temporary Court Closure AVL Proceedings

Contents

1. Commencement and Application of Practice Note	2
2. Definitions	2
3. Purpose	2
4. Presumption in favour of AVL Appearance.....	2

1. Commencement and Application of Practice Note

- 1.1 This Practice Note commences on 7 July 2025 and expires on 25 December 2025 unless revoked earlier or extended by the Chief Magistrate.
- 1.2 This Practice Note applies to matters listed for hearing or mention in the Downing Centre Local Court and Waverley Local Court.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 In this Practice Note:

AVL means Audio Visual Link as defined in s3 of the *Evidence (Audio and Audio Visual Links) Act 1998*.

3. Purpose

- 3.1 This Practice Note is issued for the purpose of directing the AVL appearance in certain matters before Downing Centre Local Court and Waverley Local Court, having regard to the resource constraints imposed by the temporary closure of the Downing Centre Local Court.

4. Presumption in favour of AVL Appearance

- 4.1 Unless an order has been made by the Court to bring the defendant before the Court in person, all hearings and mentions scheduled before the Downing Centre Local Court and Waverley Local Court for defendants in custody are to be conducted by AVL where:
 - (a) It is reasonably practical to do so, and
 - (b) The accused person or their legal representative consents to appearing by AVL.