



Local Court of New South Wales

Practice Note – Court Closure AVL Proceedings (Downing Centre)

Issued: 4 July 2025

Commences: 7 July 2025

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1. Commencement and Application of Practice Note

- 1.1 This Practice Note commences on 7 July 2025 and expires on 25 December 2025.
- 1.2 This Practice Note applies to matters listed for hearing in the Downing Centre Local Court.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 In this Practice Note:

AVL means Audio Visual Link within the meaning 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 where it is in the interests of justice for the accused person.

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 scheduled before Downing Centre Local Court for persons 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.