

Memorandum

To: TASCAT Stakeholders
From: Malcolm Schyvens, President
Subject: COVID-19: TASCAT to conduct hearings and listings remotely
Date: 10 January 2022

Given the current potential for exposure to COVID-19 within the Tasmanian community, I have determined that until further notice, all hearings and listings before the Tribunal will be conducted remotely (either by telephone or video conference).

The Tribunal has a significant proportion of vulnerable persons who attend hearings of the TASCAT. As such, in order to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission to vulnerable members of the Tasmanian community, as well as to the Members and staff of the Tribunal, it is prudent that we convene all hearings and listings remotely.

There may be necessary and appropriate circumstances that arise that require in-person attendance of one or more persons. Any person who is scheduled to attend a hearing or listing of the Tribunal may request their attendance be in person. Any application to appear in person needs to be filed with the Tribunal at least 48 hours prior to the listing and provide details as to circumstances that make an in-person attendance necessary or appropriate. The Tribunal will determine whether an in-person attendance will be permitted.

The Tribunal is fortunate to have started its operations within purpose built premises that have new and fully integrated AV systems that support the conduct of hearings by video and telephone conference. These facilities support the attendance by parties to proceedings, their representatives, as well as members of the public who wish to attend any open/public hearings of the Tribunal. The Tribunal has issued advice on its website as to how members of the public should contact the Tribunal if they wish to attend an open/public hearing of the Tribunal remotely.

We will continue to monitor circumstances and return to in person hearings at the earliest appropriate time.