

Scott Hennessey
Parliamentary Officer
Secretary, Public Works Committee
House of Assembly
Parliament House,
Hobart, Tasmania 7000

Questions on Notice - Burnie Court

Dear Scott,

At the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Public Works (the Committee) Hearing, held on Tuesday 14 December in Burnie in relation to the Burnie Court Redevelopment, the Department took two Questions on Notice from the Committee regarding the proposed redevelopment. Please find the responses to the Questions on Notice below.

Visitation to Courts

The Department can confirm that the approximate attendance figures for the Burnie Court submitted to the Committee on the 14th (50,000) includes all visitors to the courts who are either attending for a purpose associated with civil or criminal matters, to obtain and file legal documentation, have a document signed by a Justice of the Peace, tours of the facility by school and community groups, or attending to support persons attending for any of the above. Noting COVID has affected the number of people attending.

Supreme Court visitation summary

Jury - 801 jurors physically attended the Burnie Court over 15 jury panels in 2021

Trials - there have been a total of 27 criminal trials run over the eight sittings this year.

Remand Day attendances are managed due to COVID restrictions. A cap of 58 people are permitted entry on a remand day, which occurs on the first day of each sitting. Remand day lists average at around 130 people. Excluding those in custody, around 60 to 70 Defendants have their matters bail consented to reduce attendances at Court.

Criminal Statistics

- for the last four quarters, lodgements total 150. Finalisations total 127.
- Current pending list is 189 matters;
 - There is a miscellaneous criminal list for pleas and directions held each sitting with 30-40 matters listed on average on these days.

- Bail applications, directions and sentencing hearings occur daily after 4pm not only before the Judge sitting in Burnie but also before Judges sitting in Hobart and Launceston.
- Often an available Magistrates courtroom, Protected Witness Room or conference room is used to facilitate attendances to remote sites whilst the courtroom is occupied

Civil Statistics

- On three Fridays of each month there is a video link to the Associate Judge for civil case management and short hearings. An average of 3 -4 practitioners or litigants in person attend these hearings.
- There are 79 pending civil matters.

Magistrates Court visitation summary

The same person is counted more than once if they appeared on different days, but is only counted once per day if they had multiple matters/appearances. Only defendants are counted.

	Session days	Count of appearances
2019-20	268	4767
2020-21	293	5664

Video link matters

After consultation with the Courts, information on specific matters being assigned to or active in a video link to proceed, is currently not available at this time. The use of video link in a matter is decided by the Magistracy or Judiciary depending on the circumstances for each individual case.

Yours sincerely



Kristy Bourne
Deputy Secretary, Justice and Reform

22 December 2021