

Courts (Amendment) Bill

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The object of this Bill is, primarily, to make a number of procedural amendments to legislation affecting the County Court and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to improve the operation of those bodies.

CLAUSE NOTES

Clause 1 sets out the purposes of the Bill.

Clause 2 deals with commencement.

Clause 3 amends the *County Court Act 1958*:

- (a) to enable appointment of judicial members of the Liquor Control Commission as judges of the County Court; and
- (b) to provide the County Court with a discretion to continue proceedings which would otherwise be invalid for being outside jurisdiction.

Clause 4 amends the *Evidence Act 1958* to enable the County Court to issue a warrant of apprehension to compel the attendance of a witness who fails to answer a subpoena.

Clause 5 amends the *Juries Act 1967* to validate County Court jury verdicts made by six-member juries since the commencement of the *Supreme Court Act 1986* and increases the size of juries in civil trials in the County Court.

Clause 6 amends the *Planning Appeals (Amendment) Act 1987* to clarify the proclamation of that Act.

Clause 7 amends the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1984* to confer power on the registrar to conduct preliminary conferences.

