



RMPAT MEDIA GUIDELINES – JULY 2019

OBJECTIVES & GENERAL INFORMATION

Objectives

The Tribunal's objectives in dealing with the media are:

1. To facilitate full and accurate reporting of what the Tribunal does.
2. To take advantage of appropriate opportunities to further the community's understanding of the Tribunal's function and its work.

General Information

The majority of hearings before the Tribunal are open to the public. Mediation conferences and in-camera hearings convened under Section 18 of the *Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal Act 1993* are not open to the public.

Please check with the Registry staff to confirm if the hearing is a public one.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Media Enquiries

Members of the media are welcome to contact the Tribunal at any time:

- rmpat@justice.tas.gov.au
- 03 6165 6794 during business hours.

Information which may be disclosed to the media by the Tribunal includes the broad nature of the proceedings, the title of the proceedings, the names of the parties, the stage a hearing has reached, and when hearings have been scheduled. Some documents may be available (see below).

FILM, VIDEO AND AUDIO RESTRICTIONS

Photographing and filming by media outside the Tribunal

The Tribunal has adopted the following principles in relation to filming and photographing in the vicinity of the Tribunal buildings:

1. Parties and others involved in court proceedings are entitled to enter and leave the Tribunal building without being, or feeling they are being, harassed or intimidated.

2. Media are entitled to film and photograph people in public places in the course of reporting on tribunal proceedings.

The Tribunal requests that all persons adhere to these principles.

Audio or video broadcasting

The Tribunal does not permit broadcast by video or audio at any stage.

REPORTING FROM THE TRIBUNAL

The *Court Security Act 2017* has expanded the means by which journalists are able to report from a Court by allowing the use of electronic equipment. This is applicable to the Tribunal as per the section 3 definition of court in the *Court Security Act 2017*.

The *Court Security Act 2017* section 11 regarding the prohibition on the use of electronic and recording devices in 'principal court premises' does not apply to journalists as per the definition of 'journalist' in section 3. Section 3 of the *Court Security Act 2017* defines journalist as:

Journalist means a person who –

- (a) is engaged in the profession or practice of reporting, photographing, editing or recording for a media report of a news, current affairs, information or documentary nature; and
- (b) is paid to perform that profession or practice by a person, or body, that –
 - (i) is subject to a code of ethics and a procedure for the Australian Press Council, or for another person or body that is prescribed, to deal with complaints about persons engaging in such a profession or practice; or
 - (ii) is the holder of a licence under the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* of the Commonwealth;

ACCREDITED JOURNALISTS

The most effective way for a journalist to identify themselves to Registry staff is to become accredited. If you are a journalist from a news media organisation you are eligible for accreditation.

The Tribunal has adopted a simple accreditation process. Accreditation will be documented by a form signed by the journalist, returned to and reviewed by the Tribunal. Accreditation requires acknowledgement that the journalist has an understanding of Tribunal proceedings, legislative requirements and the procedures and policies as set out in this document.

Accredited journalists can use personal iPads, tablets, laptop computers, digital assistants and mobile phones capable of transmitting emails, for electronic note-taking, messaging by text, and filing stories, so long as that does not interfere with the proceedings.

Accredited journalists will be given identification tags to wear during Tribunal proceedings to enable Members and Registry staff to easily identify journalists.

JOURNALISTS USING ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT IN THE TRIBUNAL

Any electronic recording (audio and video) of any Tribunal proceedings is prohibited.

Subject to any restrictions by the Presiding Member, journalists (as defined by the Court Security Act 2017) may use an electronic device or a recording device in court for electronic note-taking, messaging by text and filing stories, so long as that use does not generate sound, involve speech or interfere with the proceedings, with the court recording system or other technology and does not impede the administration of justice.

Accredited journalists may use electronic equipment for the publication of material on the internet (blogging, tweeting and similar). Blogging which allows public comment is not permitted.

Journalists reporting from the Tribunal must ensure that any publication does not contravene any applicable legislation, does not otherwise prejudice the hearing or any related hearing.

Non-accredited journalists, freelance writers, and members of the public are not permitted to use electronic equipment for the publication of material in the Tribunal.

ACCESS BY THE MEDIA TO DOCUMENTS AND OTHER MATERIALS

Transcripts

The Tribunal does not transcribe proceedings.

Copies of audio recordings of proceedings

The Tribunal only provides copies of its audio recording of proceedings to the parties to the appeal or application upon request. It is provided only for the purposes of assisting parties in the conduct of their case or in the exercise of appeal rights. Parties are directed that audio recordings of proceedings are not to be published, distributed or altered in any way.

Access to documents and other materials

The Tribunal does not provide open access to its files as they relate to proceedings before it.

The Tribunal may provide copies of documents. Those documents include:

- The originating application or notice of appeal;
- Final grounds of appeal/pleadings;

- Final or interim decisions of the Tribunal which have been published can be accessed via [AUSTLII](#).

A request for provision of copies of documents must be made in writing.

The Tribunal will provide administrative information or information that is otherwise publically available including details of any listings and adjournment dates.

It is not appropriate for the Tribunal to provide detailed summaries, ongoing commentary or access to all correspondence related to proceedings. To do so may undermine the administration of justice.