



SOUTH
AUSTRALIAN
EMPLOYMENT
TRIBUNAL

29 April 2020

THE PRESIDENT'S CHAMBERS

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Ms R Webber
Chairperson of Self Insurers of SA
By email only: robin@sisa.net.au

Dear Ms Webber

RE: Fast Track Stream Rules 2020

The changed circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic have caused SAET to respond quickly in order to continue to deliver its essential service of administering justice within its jurisdiction.

We have already implemented a number of significant measures that have been designed to enable litigation to proceed, whilst complying with the necessary practices and protocols to ensure the containment of the COVID-19 virus. Many of those measures you would already be aware of, but as recently as yesterday an appeal was successfully conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams. As such, even at the highest levels of our functions we have demonstrated our adaptability to the current changed circumstances.

Given the COVID-19 restrictions currently in place, and in all probability will be in place in some way shape or form into the near future, we assume that it will be some months before the functioning of SAET will returned to the pre-pandemic environment. During that period, however long, we are keen to adapt so as to ensure that the hearing of cases under the *Return to Work Act 2014* can proceed in the changed circumstances. That is, where some cases will not be able to proceed as planned, due to COVID-19 considerations, other cases may be able to proceed in their place.

In that regard, the *Fast Track Stream Rules 2020* have been formulated to facilitate the introduction of the appropriate case into a RTW Act callover at relatively short notice, where that case is ready to proceed and where it will replace a case that was not ready to proceed due to COVID-19 considerations. Those draft Rules are attached for your consideration.

Accordingly, I am seeking your feedback with regards to the *Fast Track Stream Rules 2020*. As you would understand, given the speed at which we must move in the current unprecedented situation, and in order that the required rule making procedures are completed expeditiously, I would be pleased to receive any feedback that you may have within 7 days of this letter. In that regard, please address all correspondence to saet.pres.ea@sa.gov.au.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Dolphin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Justice Steven Dolphin
President