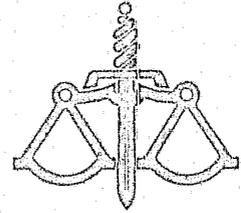


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M.F.S.

Law Department
Victoria

The Future Organization and Operation of Courts in Victoria

102723

May, 1985
Courts Management Change Program

Peter Thomas

**THE FUTURE ORGANISATION
AND OPERATION OF COURTS
IN VICTORIA**

102723

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THE FUTURE ORGANIZATION
AND OPERATION OF COURTS
IM VICTORIA

MAY 1985

FOREWORD

The Victorian Government is committed to an efficient and properly resourced Court system.

To achieve this, a Courts Management Change Program consisting of eight major change projects, has been instituted and is in the process of implementation. The projects have been led by various steering committees, four of which have been chaired by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Honourable Sir John McI. Young, K.C.M.G. This paper draws on the work of those steering committees and presents proposals for an integrated strategy for the long-term development of an effective and efficient Court system.

A fundamental element in the plan to revitalise the administration of Courts is that the Court system will be managed through a regional organisation structure. The underlying theme of this proposal is the need to improve the accessibility to Court services by local communities. With regionalisation, the specific needs of different local communities can be catered for, resulting in improved service delivery.

The proposal to provide visiting services by Clerks of Courts in rural areas further demonstrates the Government's determination to make the Victorian Court system more relevant and responsive to the people it serves. With the proposed computerisation of the Court system, the flexibility with which visiting services can be delivered will be greatly enhanced, and the range of services provided will be expanded.

This paper also discusses proposals with regard to Court buildings. It is clear that the Victorian community cannot afford to bring all Court buildings up to an adequate standard over the next decade. Suggestions are made concerning priorities for works and services expenditure.

This paper is being widely circulated to interested parties with the intention that consultation be held throughout the State under the auspices of the Regional Consultative Councils to elicit community views with regard to the issues discussed. Following this consultation, I will be in a position to consider the long-term strategy for changes in the administration of the Courts.

I commend this document to you as a genuine initiative by the Law Department to stimulate community participation in the future planning for Courts in Victoria.

Any questions or submissions concerning this paper may be directed to Mr. John B. King, Deputy Secretary for Courts, Law Department, 471 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, 3000, phone 606 9111.

J. H. Kennan.

JIM KENNAN, M.L.C.,
ATTORNEY-GENERAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In December, 1983, the Government appointed Mr. John B. King, Deputy Secretary for Courts with a specific brief "to improve progressively the efficiency and economy of operation of the Court system and the effectiveness with which it meets community needs".

The Deputy Secretary established the Courts Management Change Program which contains eight projects, each of which is led by a Steering Committee comprised of representatives of interested parties. The majority of these steering committees are chaired by the Honourable, the Chief Justice, Sir John McI. Young, K.C.M.G.

The strategies for change have drawn heavily on the work performed by these steering committees, in particular, that which considered Organisational Options for Court Management, whose members comprised:

The Honourable Sir John McI. Young, K.C.M.G.
Chief Justice of Victoria
(Chairman)

The Honourable Kenneth Marks,
Puisne Judge

The Honourable Robert Brooking,
Puisne Judge

His Honour Judge Glenn Waldron,
Chief Judge of the County Court

Mr. Alexander Vale,
Chief Stipendiary Magistrate

Mr. John Dugan,
Deputy Chief Stipendiary Magistrate

Mr. Peter Liddell, Q.C., Bar Council
(Mr. Kevin Whiting is the alternating
representative of the Bar Council.)

Mr. Lindsay Collins,
Law Institute of Victoria

Mr. Richard Tracey,
Law Faculty, University of Melbourne

VIII

Mr. John Denahy,
President, Clerk of Courts Group
Victorian Public Service Association.

General acknowledgement is given also to all those officers of the Law Department, the Public Works Department (maps prepared by Serdar Baycan) and other related agencies who contributed to the detailed studies undertaken of existing arrangements, the development of avenues for change and the compilation of specific proposals as contained in the following Reports which are to be made available, separately, as part of this consultation process. These are:

- Courts Needs Study
- Report on the Administration of Court Poor Box Funds
- Community Services and Courts in Victoria
- Information Systems Planning Report
- Penalty Enforcement by Registration of Infringement Notice Report.

The major contribution to this document came from the Deputy Secretary for Courts, Mr. John B. King, the Director of Court Operations, Mr. Dan J. Hourigan, and a project team drawn from the following officers, Ms. Nerida Wallace, Messrs. Brian Barrow and Terry Wilson of the Law Department and Messrs. Michael Spain (seconded from the Public Service Board) and Mr. Dick Elvins (seconded from the Office of Corrections). Significant input was given also by individual Clerks of Courts.

**THE FUTURE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION
OF COURTS IN VICTORIA**

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**COURTS MANAGEMENT CHANGE PROGRAM: REPORTS SEPARATELY
AVAILABLE**

Courts Needs Study

Report on the Administration of Court Poor Box Funds

Community Services and Courts in Victoria

Information Systems Planning Report

**Penalty Enforcement by Registration of Infringement
Notice**

SUMMARY

The prime purpose of this paper is to provide a basis for consultation. Views and comment are sought from the Victorian community in respect of proposals which, if adopted, would enable a detailed ten-year development program for the future organisation and operation of Courts to be considered by the Attorney-General.

The paper examines the present position of the Courts in Victoria, identifies major problems and issues of concern which have emerged as a result of a failure of Courts to respond and adapt to changing needs and strongly recommends a number of strategies for change in respect of which community comment is invited.

The following list of observations reflect the major problems and issues adversely affecting the present administration of Courts.

- The jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Courts has not been progressively adapted to meet changing community needs.
- There is a lack of Court control over Court hearing scheduling.
- The Court system is not sufficiently accessible to the community.
- Existing Courts administrative systems result in each Court operating in isolation and limit effective provision of services.
- Courts are perceived as having a role as de facto welfare agencies.
- There is a need to improve staff morale and training and to progressively redefine the role of Clerks to provide more attractive career opportunities.
- Court buildings and facilities are uneconomic and do not meet modern day building requirements.

Key objectives have been determined for Courts and their relationship to the community. These are:

- Courts must meet community needs; and
- Courts must be adaptable, accessible, efficient, effective and comprehensible.

Before proposing strategies for change by which these objectives might be achieved, the paper identifies some possible barriers to change which are discussed under the following categories.

- Attitudes prevailing within the legal profession, judiciary and Court staff.
- Growth in Court business.
- Lack of long term strategic planning.
- Perceived role of the Courts by the community.

As the Attorney-General already has taken a decision that the future organisation and operation of Courts in Victoria will proceed on a regional basis, criteria have been determined against which the proposed regional structure can be evaluated.

Court functions have been examined to separate out those activities, information and ancillary services which may be provided from venues other than Court Houses. As a result it is proposed to institute visiting services which will be provided by Clerks of Courts to an additional 91 locations in rural Victoria. Similar services will be available on an enhanced basis in the metropolitan area.

A classification of Courts has been made according to primary function. This identifies a hierarchy of Courts comprising:

- Regional Headquarters Courts which also will be Mention Courts and multi-jurisdictional Courts and the operational base for the Regional Managers.
- Mention Courts which will control the allocation of Court lists and Magisterial resources to the surrounding Hearing Courts and accommodate most hearings for their area. Some Mention Courts are to be multi-jurisdictional.
- Hearing Courts which will include all existing Courts and are to accommodate hearings at the direction of the local Mention Court. They may also be used for alternative community purposes.

Existing Court facilities will be retained but future Court House development will proceed according to the following broad priority criteria to be applied to existing Courts:

- Category A - high priority, to meet minimum functional standards.
- Category B - moderate priority, to meet minimum functional standards.
- Category C - to be maintained as a hearing facility, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

Future Court Complexes comprising formal Court rooms, informal hearing rooms, interview rooms, facilities for ancillary services, waiting areas, offices and staff facilities are planned for metropolitan and rural areas.

1. INTRODUCTION

This discussion document presents proposed strategies for the future organization and operation of Courts in Victoria. Although it deals with the future location of multi-jurisdictional Court facilities at which hearings of the Supreme and County Courts will be listed, its principal focus is the future operation of Magistrates' Courts, as these are widespread and any changes to them should include community consultation.

The proposed Strategies for Change (see Part 4) have resulted from a detailed study of existing arrangements, the methodical development of new arrangements formulated with the participation of the various affected parties, and information contained in other Reports arising out of various studies undertaken under the Courts Management Change Program. These are:

- Courts Needs Study
- Report on the Administration of Court Poor Box Funds
- Community Services and Courts in Victoria
- Information Systems Planning Report
- Penalty Enforcement by Registration of Infringement Notice Report

Copies of all the above Reports are available, on request, as separate documents. Additionally, the Civil Justice Committee Report 1984, which is available from the Law Foundation, has also been referred to.

In recent years there has emerged a widespread appreciation within the community that major problems confronted the Court system in Victoria due to a failure of the system itself to adapt progressively to change.

Signs of the resulting decline are evident in an increasing number of cases waiting to be dealt with, long consequential delays, Court facilities which are in a state of dilapidation, and buildings which are incapable of satisfying modern Court needs, and which are located without reference to a rational geographic network based upon current and emerging community needs.

The inability of the Court system to adapt to changing community requirements, (in particular to provide for dispute resolution mechanisms which were low cost and readily accessible), resulted in the emergence of a proliferation of quasi-judicial tribunals such as the Residential Tenancies Tribunal and the Small Claims Tribunal outside the Court system.

The increasing community appreciation of these problems was matched by a similar awareness amongst the judiciary and the legal profession. As the problems are not unique to Victoria, the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration, comprising members of the judiciary and the legal profession, was formed with the objective of improving the administration of Court systems in Australia through systematic research projects.

The Government's strategy to address the problems contained two distinct elements. Firstly, it provided some measures which would address the most pressing problems and secondly, it set in place a basic framework which could achieve long-term and on-going change in the Court system.

The immediate measures adopted included:

- appointment of more Judges in the Supreme and County Courts and the provision of more Court rooms,
- increases in the jurisdictions of the County Court and Magistrates' Courts to relieve the pressures caused by delays in the Supreme Court,
- institution of procedures for pre-trial conferences within the County Court and Supreme Court to assist the back-log of personal injuries cases,
- establishment of the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions with the objective of improving the flow of criminal cases within the Courts.

This list is not comprehensive, but is indicative of the variety of the initiatives recently taken.

Two principal longer term initiatives were taken. The first was the establishment of the Civil Justice Committee, (Chaired by The Honourable Sir John Young, Chief Justice of Victoria) which was requested to undertake "a full-scale review of the administration of civil justice in Victoria". The report of the Committee was presented to the Attorney-General in November 1984. It makes a large number of recommendations which taken together, constitute a watershed

for change in Victoria's Civil Justice system. Consultations regarding its recommendations affecting the superior courts are well advanced and some changes have already been initiated by the Attorney-General.

The second initiative, taken in December 1983, was to create a new position in the Law Department of Deputy Secretary for Courts. The Principal Consultant (Major Projects), Public Service Board was transferred to this position in December, 1983 with the brief "to develop a long-term program to improve progressively the efficiency and economy of operation of the Court system and the effectiveness with which it meets community needs".

By March, 1984, the head office of the Courts Administration Division in the Law Department of Victoria had been reorganized and strengthened and the **Courts Management Change Program** established with the aim of bringing about major improvement in service delivery, efficiency and cost effectiveness in Courts Administration.

The Program contains eight major **projects** each of which is headed by a Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Justice and comprising representatives of interested parties:

- Organizational Options for Courts Management in Victoria.
- Court House Maintenance and Development.
- Administrative Systems and Management Information.
- Human Resource Development and Management.
- Communication and Consultation.
- Administration of Courts Trust Funds.
- Administration of the Licensing Function
- Administration of the Poor Box Fund.

These studies have resulted in the formulation of seven major **goals** which are the immediate concern of this report:

- the progressive introduction of changes to the **jurisdiction** and **functions** of the Magistrates' Courts to make them more adaptable and responsive to community needs for inexpensive and accessible justice.

- the development of a **regional structure** for the better management of Courts to enable both a higher level of community participation in the planning and operation of Courts and the decentralization of decision making.
- the progressive **computerisation** of administrative systems to enhance and make Court services more accessible and to enable them to be delivered to the community more flexibly and at lower cost than at present.
- the development of appropriate **visiting service networks** to expand the range of services provided by Clerks of Courts.
- the implementation of a ten year works program incorporating the establishment of **Court Complexes** designed to accommodate ancillary services and to meet modern Court needs.
- the development of **improved hearing procedures** to reduce waiting periods at Court Houses and to avoid unnecessary attendance costs incurred by Police and witnesses.
- the re-organization of **staff** arrangements away from rote clerical activities towards tasks which will be more directly beneficial to the community in terms of improving the administration of justice and enhancing personal job satisfaction.

It is recognized that the pursuance of these goals will have wide ranging effects across the various elements which make up the justice system in Victoria. For this reason it is intended that a comprehensive process of consultation and discussion be undertaken to enable reactions to the strategies for change proposed in Part 4. to be obtained and assimilated prior to their adoption by the Attorney-General.

This process will include:

- circulation of this Report to appropriate agencies likely to be affected by Court changes. Circulation of the Report to the Bar Council of Victoria, the Law Institute of Victoria, Country and Suburban Law Associations, the Victorian Legal Aid Commission, and Community Legal Aid Centres.
- conducting public discussions on advertised dates in each proposed Region defined in the Report, and at other locations subject to the advice of the network of Regional Consultative Councils in metropolitan and rural areas of Victoria.

- identification and documentation of areas of concern raised at each consultative meeting.
- assessment of matters of public concern arising from the consultative process by the relevant Project Steering Committee.
- preparation of a final report for the Attorney-General identifying areas of public concern.
- publication and circulation of this final report prior to the taking of any decisions by the Attorney-General.

2. COURTS AND THE COMMUNITY

Objectives of the Court System

For the purposes of strategy formulation it is useful to distinguish between three types of organizational objectives. These are:

Purpose: The reason why an organization, in this case the Court system, was formed in the first place.

Ethos: How an organization behaves towards its employees and all other people or groups of people with whom it interacts.

Means: How the organization carries out its purpose and ethos.

The clear purpose of the Courts is to be the forum in which impartial justice is administered according to the law both in respect of civil and criminal matters. The Victorian Court system was formed to provide Victorians with the benefit of an orderly and secure society wherein relationships are governed impartially according to the rule of law.

The Courts were not formed to benefit through their employment, Court staff, the judiciary, the magistracy or the legal profession. This point is worth making because there is the danger that in practice, over long periods of time, the Courts, like other long established institutions, come to regard themselves as ends in themselves having as their purpose, the meeting of the needs of the institution and its members rather than those of its clients.

Organizations develop an ethos which determines the ways in which people or groups within the organization inter-relate and how they relate to their environment. This ethos (or colloquially, "the way we do things around here") can positively assist the achievement of purpose or be a severe constraint to its achievement.

The means or strategies by which an organization sets about achieving its organizational purpose are, like its ethos, either matters of conscious choice or developed in response to environmental change. The range of strategic options which may or will be considered at any point in time will be

constrained by resources, technology, the organization's ethos and the creative thinking of those involved in it. Thus, two organizations given the same quantity of resources, but pursuing different strategies, can achieve different levels in the pursuit of the same purpose.

If the Courts are to fulfill their purpose of meeting community needs for the administration of justice it is essential that they be:

- **adaptable** to emerging community needs.
- **accessible**, in terms of availability, location and cost of services.
- **efficient** in the disposal of Court business in the sense that justice delayed tends to be justice denied.
- **effective** in terms of consistency and impartiality of decisions and in the provision of services.
- **comprehensible** - Court procedures and proceedings need to be capable of being understood and seen as relevant and appropriate to lay people as well as Court officers and practitioners.

Unless each of these five key requirements is perceived by the community as being met, at least adequately, community frustration will breed a contempt for the law and the Courts, and the community will generate other institutions and/or methods to meet its needs. Thus, any strategic plan for the future development and management of the Court system must address these five key issues.

That there is community dissatisfaction with the present Court system cannot be doubted. It is perhaps sufficient to point to the development over the last decade or so of quasi judicial tribunals which in Victoria now adjudicate more civil disputes than do the Courts. As the Courts grow in irrelevance, the community's willingness to devote resources to them declines, producing a circle which can only be broken by changes in the means and ethos with which the organization seeks to achieve its purpose.

Barriers to Change

It is perhaps worth identifying and putting in some perspective what might be thought to be the most likely barriers to change.

Of transcending significance is the ethos of the legal profession. It is often seen as a profession which is steeped in the tradition of precedent and which tends to be ill at ease with and resistant to change. That view of the profession is no longer universally valid, if indeed it ever was.

A concern for meaningful improvement and change in Court administration is common to at least some members of the profession and the judiciary. This has been substantiated by the formation of the Australian Institution of Judicial Administration, a judicial/profession initiative.

Court staff might be expected to be against change because their roles and methods of work have remained essentially unchanged since the turn of the century. However, the growth in the volume of business in the Courts has not been matched by proportionate increases in resources, so Court staff are now working under very considerable pressure. Their answer lies in working "smarter not harder", a view which they acknowledge. The strategies for change proposed in Part 4 will assist in achieving this result. The changes will also provide staff with more rewarding work roles in serving community needs.

A third barrier to change is that in organizations like the Law Department, which exist in the volatile political environment with its short term perspective, the urgent always receives more attention than the important. Administrators are compelled to get things done rather than thinking about how to get them done. The result is that there is a lack of planning, especially long term strategic planning. The mere recognition of these factors as barriers to effecting strategic change should serve sufficiently to sharpen the focus of attention to thinking about the important objectives and how to achieve these.

There is confusion in some sectors of the community as to the proper role of the Courts, with the Courts being perceived by some as an extension of the welfare delivery system. Not only is there a need for broad community agreement on the proper role of the Courts, but there is also a need to define this role in the context of any development towards a broader "Justice System". If such an expanded role is endorsed by government, it should identify and provide the resources for its development and implementation and more importantly, provide the machinery for effective interfaces between the various components of this broader system. The separately available Report "Community Services and Courts in Victoria" of the Court Advisory Services Project, discusses the role of the Courts within such an expanded "Justice System" and examines the relationship of the Courts to welfare agencies.

3. COURTS ADMINISTRATION ISSUES

The issues of current concern to the administration of Courts in Victoria can be grouped under the following headings:

- Jurisdiction
- Welfare Role
- Scheduling
- Access
- Systems
- Personnel
- Buildings

In the following discussion an **observation** is made on each of these and an effort made to identify prevailing problems and to suggest apparent remedies for consideration in the formulation of the strategies for change proposed in Part 4.

Jurisdiction

The Jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Courts Has Not Been Progressively Adapted to Meet Changing Community Needs.

An increasing majority (now more than two thirds) of Magistrates' Courts work is in the criminal jurisdiction. Whilst the monetary limits of the civil jurisdiction of Magistrates' Courts have been increased in real terms since the establishment of these Courts, Victoria has witnessed a significant shift away from Courts as a forum for settling civil disputes. Over the last decade or so there has been a proliferation of quasi judicial Tribunals (such as the Small Claims, Residential Tenancies and Credit Tribunals) which together now hear more civil disputes, than do Courts.

This process of proliferation will continue if current community calls for the formation of further specialised Tribunals are heeded. For example, there are calls from various community groups for a Residential Building Disputes Tribunal, a Retail Tenancies Tribunal, a Motor Vehicle Damage Tribunal, and so on.

The growth in Tribunals has occurred because both Governments and the community generally have presumably seen the Magistrates' Courts as an inappropriate forum in which to resolve minor civil disputes. Among the reasons usually advanced for this perception of the Courts are:

- the high costs associated with legal representation in the Courts together with the practice of awarding of costs against the unsuccessful party to a dispute.
- the cumbersome and intimidating formality of Court procedures including adherence to the rules of evidence and to the adversarial system.
- the delays in getting cases heard and determined.
- the inappropriateness of remedies available to Magistrates in adjudicating cases.

Tribunals generally are organized so that many of these problems are positively addressed. Typically, there is no automatic right of legal representation and very limited (if any) power to award costs.

The rules of evidence are usually not strictly applied and the referee's role is generally exercised in a much less formal manner than the Magistrate's role. The referees are often under a legislative duty to attempt to mediate solutions to disputes before proceeding to adjudication.

Often too, the types of remedies available to a referee are far wider than those available to a Magistrate who, in essence, can give only a monetary award. A Magistrate cannot, for example, direct a trader to fulfil a contract, nor direct a landlord or tenant to desist from a particular course of action or practice. These types of remedies are included in the range of equitable remedies, and in the Court system such remedies can only be exercised in full by the Supreme Court, and to a lesser extent by the County Court.

Overall, the emphasis on Tribunals is on achieving an **effective-resolution** of disputes without excessive reliance on or adherence to formal practices and procedures, which are traditional elements in the Courts system.

The trend away from Courts is not without significant costs to the Victorian community. As each specialised Tribunal is created another bureaucracy is spawned together with its own separate systems, procedures and facilities, the costs of which generally come by way of Government appropriation.

Particularly in the latter regard this growth is wasteful of community resources when there are idle Court House facilities. In addition, although some Tribunals go on circuit, for the most part, they operate centrally in Melbourne which limits their accessibility by the Victorian community, particularly the rural community.

The Civil Justice Committee discusses these issues in detail in its recent Report and in essence recommends:-

- changes to the minor civil disputes jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Courts - a minor civil dispute being defined as one concerning an issue of \$3,000 or less - so that the Court is able to a large extent to offer litigants the same advantages as the typical tribunal, and
- progressive merger of existing tribunals into the modified Courts system.

In mid 1984 the Attorney-General established a committee (The Hill Committee), with a broad community base, to advise on changes which should be made to the Magistrates' Courts jurisdiction and procedures.

The Committee has yet to report to the Attorney-General but it is anticipated it will examine the Civil Justice Committee's recommendations in more detail, and perhaps go further and advocate that in certain circumstances Magistrates should be able to use equitable remedies and that new jurisdictions should be developed.

It is evident that it is necessary for Magistrates' Courts jurisdiction to be continually monitored and adapted in the light of changing community needs. To assist achievement of this objective appropriate linkages will need to be forged between the Court system and community groups.

Progressive changes to the Magistrates' Courts jurisdiction to improve the Courts' relevance to the community, must be reflected in Court House location and Court facility design decisions, and in service delivery systems.

Welfare Role

Courts are Performing a Welfare Agency Role.

A Poor Box Fund is maintained by Magistrates and administered by Clerks of Courts in every Magistrates' Court in Victoria. These are said to constitute Victoria's largest single source of emergency cash relief. Since the fund is distributed by Clerks of Courts, some agencies in the community, particularly welfare agencies, regard Clerks as having a welfare role in addition to their other responsibilities.

Court Houses are also regarded as information and referral centres where advice on a variety of Government and non-Government services may be obtained and referrals to various agencies provided. The continued involvement of Court staff in a range of welfare work has reinforced the view that Clerks of Courts are both administrators of the justice system and welfare officers. However, Clerks of Courts are not formally trained to provide assistance to the public in welfare matters.

Poor Box monies were originally utilised primarily as emergency assistance to people in necessitous circumstances usually resulting from their dealings with the Court. For example, deserted wives and children were assisted during the initial stages of maintenance proceedings, disadvantaged applicants were assisted with issuing fees on documents and witnesses were assisted with travelling expenses to attend Courts. In a small number of cases, money was given to people who sought direct assistance from the Court. However, most community emergency relief was provided through the traditional welfare channels, with little demand on the Poor Box from outside the Court system itself.

In recent years there has been massive increase in the demand for emergency relief from persons not directly involved in dealings with a Court. This growth has occurred because both private and public welfare organizations have increasingly referred persons to the Courts for assistance from the Poor Box.

A survey of four representative metropolitan Courts has shown that 53% of Poor Box funds was disbursed following referrals by welfare agencies, while 24% was allocated on the basis of a direct request by a client, or on a Court-related basis. The remaining 23% were allocated either to another Court, or to a welfare agency for dispersal.

All payments from the fund are authorised by a Stipendiary Magistrate. It is the responsibility of Clerks of Courts to make payments from the fund after interviewing the applicant and recommending action to the Magistrate. Poor Box accounts are subject to audit by the State Auditor-General.

The present administration of the Poor Box Fund may be seen as unsatisfactory for a number of reasons, but primarily because there seems to be a lack of consistency in the approach to the disbursement of funds.

There have been no guidelines to assist Clerks when considering applications for assistance, nor have Clerks been advised of other welfare organisations that operate within

their areas and the types and range of assistance that may be obtained from these organisations.

During consultations with members of the Victorian Emergency Relief Committee a number of concerns with the existing arrangements for the administration of Poor Box funds were identified by representatives from a range of welfare agencies and community groups. These concerns are outlined in the "Report on the Administration of Court Poor Box Funds". The Committee acknowledged the need for formal training, the development of guidelines for Clerks of Courts, and the re-naming of the fund if it remained with the Magistrates' Courts. Also acknowledged was the need for liaison with welfare agencies in the area of the Court, establishment of proper interview facilities at Court Houses and the need to ensure accessibility to funds through the broadest possible distribution.

Since the completion of that Report, the Department suggested a strategy to Magistrates that they provide funds to local community agencies approved by them. Various welfare groups have made a number of representations to the Attorney-General and have criticised the type of accountability imposed by the Magistracy and have raised the issue of whether a portion of funds should be made available to them to cover administrative expenses. Community groups have also been critical of the level of expertise exhibited by Clerks of Courts in the administration of the Poor Box because of their lack of involvement in welfare service planning. Clerks' activities may well result in a distortion or a contradiction of generally accepted community policies in the provision of welfare support.

It should be recognized that the Poor Box is a fund established by Magistrates and not subject to the direction of the Law Department or the Courts Administration Division. Under these circumstances it must be recognized that the final decision with regard to the future administration of the Poor Box - which might appropriately be named the "Magistrates' Fund" rather than as suggested by the Steering Committee in the Poor Box Report, the "Courts' Fund" - rests with the Magistracy as does the quantum of the Fund.

Scheduling

There is a Lack of Court Control Over Case Hearing Scheduling.

The present method of scheduling or listing matters in Magistrates' Courts does not allow for effective control by the Court over the manner in which matters are brought before

it for hearing. The ad hoc listing of cases where users select dates and venues without prior consultation with the Court has created significant problems for the Magistracy, the administrative staff, the legal profession, the Police and the public.

The inability of the Court to control the number of matters listed for hearing on any given day when a Court is gazetted to sit, results in the under-utilisation of available resources when hearings do not proceed or insufficient matters are listed for hearing. This can result in, on average, Magistrates sitting less than four hours a day throughout Victoria. Where Magistrates sit in complexes with Court control of the listing function (e.g. at Prahran) sitting time averages are significantly higher. Adjournments resulting from overlisting by clients are costly due to the time wasted by the parties (particularly Police), claims made against the Appeal Costs Fund, and increased Court delays and subsequent community dissatisfaction with the Court system.

A new Court-controlled listing system has operated successfully at the Prahran and Moonee Ponds Magistrates' Courts since August, 1984 and is currently being tested in Gippsland and in the balance of the metropolitan area. The new system has been designed to streamline the handling of cases in the Courts and has proved to save the time of Police witnesses and others involved in hearings. It is proposed to extend the listing system progressively throughout the State.

The key feature of the new listing system is the virtual elimination of public uncertainty by ensuring that a hearing scheduled for a specific date or dates is dealt with on that day or days. This system has resulted in a substantial overall reduction in delays in case hearings and has released scarce resources for deployment to other priority areas.

The shift from client control of lists to Court control means that cases will be set down for "mention" at the one or more listing Courts designated as mention Courts. Matters which cannot be disposed of summarily on the mention day (i.e. where there is no appearance on the mention day or the Court is advised that a matter is to be contested) are adjourned over to the most mutually convenient Court location. That Court will sit only to hear cases adjourned over to it when the co-ordinating Magistrate considers that a list which constitutes a day's work has been assembled. The result of this form of Court control of listing will be that Courts will not sit on pre-determined dates as set out in the Government Gazette, but Courts (other than mention Courts) may tend to sit less frequently than at present; however, when sitting, they will sit for a full day. Thus the community demand for Court hearing services will be matched with court room availability and judicial resources.

Another feature of the Court controlled listing system during the trial in Prahran and Moonee Ponds has been the 75 - 80% reduction in applications under the Appeal Costs Fund Act for reimbursement of legal fees, lost earnings and other costs associated with adjournments brought about by a Court's inability to hear a particular matter because of over-listing. Such costs for the Courts as a whole are currently in excess of \$1 million per year.

Access

The Court System is not Sufficiently Accessible to the Community.

The issue of accessibility has a number of dimensions. The problem of access in terms of cost and procedures has been noted previously. The issue of geographic accessibility is a problem of its own.

The geographic location of Victoria's Court Houses reflects a combination of the transport modes of the 19th Century and the political and social pressures of the 20th Century. No master plan was developed, nor were there criteria for determining the location of Court Houses and facilities. The result is that in some areas Court Houses are surplus to requirements, whilst in other areas there exists a demand for new or additional Court facilities.

It should be recognised that the Court system involves essentially two types of activities. Firstly, there are those hearing or adjudication activities which take place before a Magistrate in the Court room itself, e.g. civil and criminal trials, committals and various applications. Secondly, there is a group of services provided through the agency of the Clerks of Courts. These "over the counter" services are broad in range and may usefully be grouped into three categories.

There are services directly concerned with **hearings**, for example, the operation of the sitting of the Court such as the issue of summonses, recording of verdicts, issue of warrants and the like. These services are used by the legal profession, the police and the public at large.

Secondly, there are **legal information services**. These comprise information given over the counter by Clerks on a large number of issues related to the Courts and the operations of the law. The users of these services are the legal profession and members of the public.

Lastly, there are **community support services**. The principal activities in this regard are distribution of the Poor Box monies and the provision of information on other Government and community-related services, which are integral to the administration of justice.

Because Court rooms (and their associated facilities, such as Magistrates' chambers, interview rooms etc.) are expensive to maintain, the government has an obligation to the community to ensure that they are consistently utilized.

The range of "over the counter" services, provided by Clerks of Courts, are however much more frequently accessed by members of the public and the legal profession than are the Court rooms for hearings. It is to be anticipated, too, that as adjustments are progressively made to the jurisdiction of the Courts and to the roles played by Clerks that even greater use will be made of the range of services offered by Clerks.

It is important to recognise that the location of "over the counter" services need not be dictated by the location of Court hearings. What is needed is the location of services which suit the needs of local communities; not a single, inflexible system which assumes all services should be equally accessible at a hearing location.

Systems

Existing Courts Administrative Systems Result in Each Court Operating in Isolation and Limit Effective Provision of Services.

Existing Courts administrative systems are all manually based with the exception of the Bailiff's computer system (which came on stream in January 1985), and two accounting machines in the Melbourne Magistrates' Courts. Administrative systems within the Courts have essentially remained unchanged for the past century except for the ballpoint pen and typewriter replacing the quill and inkpot. Apart from high clerical costs, one of the penalties that these antiquated systems has imposed upon the community is that each Court House operates as an isolated administrative unit.

This can be illustrated by the fact that a process can generally only proceed in the Court House in which the matter initially commenced, a fine can only be paid at the Court at which it was imposed, or a maintenance order can only be pursued at the Court in which it is lodged.

With computerisation of the Courts' administrative systems each Court can be linked to a State-wide Courts' computer system. The computer will permit access to information relating to an action issued or to be heard in another Court.

The resultant service flexibility and convenience to the public, legal practitioners and Court staff will produce significant improvements in Court administration.

At present there is significant duplication of clerical activity between government agencies required to refer to data held in separate and manually operated clerical systems.

A computer system which contains all relevant Court data could, with safeguards to protect privacy and the rights of individuals, be linked with the computers of the Police Department, the Road Traffic Authority, the Department of Community Services and the Office of Corrections, to provide significant economies in effecting such data exchanges as are currently made and which might be agreed to in the future.

A further benefit of computerisation is that solicitors would have the capacity to access the Court's computer both to gain information and to issue proceedings. For instance, the necessity for a country or suburban solicitor to go to a Court to search the register or to issue proceedings, will no longer exist. Rather, sitting in his or her office, the solicitor will be able to answer numerous questions which the client may ask (for example about an order issued by a Court) and to file process with the Court.

It will be appreciated that the amount of tedious clerical effort (and opportunity for error) can be significantly reduced and information can be more readily produced with computerisation. Additionally, the problems and costs involved in file storage will to a large extent be overcome with the most relevant material being stored on computer.

Portable computers can be used in country areas when visiting services are given by Clerks of Courts. Such a service has not been available in the past because all records and forms have of necessity been located at Court Houses. With portable computers, the Clerk will be able to enter the necessary details, and then have a completed form printed. This capacity will produce significant cost savings and increased flexibility to change forms to reflect legislative or other requirements.

Service delivery by the proposed visiting Clerks network will be significantly enhanced by the computerisation of the administrative systems.

The Law Department intends to negotiate locations for visiting services with other Government departments and local Government. Obviously, with computerisation, these services could be based in local municipal offices or Government buildings. The only requirement would be access to a phone via which a portable computer could be linked with the main computer.

Personnel

There is a Need to Improve Staff Morale and Training and to Progressively Redefine the Role of Clerks to Provide More Attractive Career Opportunities.

In order to become a Clerk of Courts, officers have been required to undertake a two year practical apprenticeship and to pass formal examinations in four legal subjects. This prerequisite, together with the responsible nature of Court work and the tendency of Clerks of Courts to devote their working careers to the Courts has created a strong tradition of occupational excellence. As a result Clerks of Courts are a highly professional and dedicated group of public administrators.

Despite this, in the past, lines of operational responsibility have been ill-defined and decision making has been heavily centralized with Clerks having little opportunity to influence decisions or to transmit the needs of their local communities.

This pattern of centralized control operated through uniform procedures, with essentially a one way communication flow, which seriously inhibited the effective development of the Courts system in meeting community needs at the local level. It also limited the opportunities for Clerks to develop their personal skills and made no concession for the fact that the vast majority of Clerks, given an organisational structure which permitted it, could contribute significantly to the more effective running of the Courts.

The development of a regional management structure would result in a progressive shift in the location of decision making away from the head office of the Courts Administration Division to the regions. Policies and priorities will be developed at a regional level and through consultation with the local community, the particular needs of the local

regional community can be addressed.

It is fully appreciated that the implementation of a regional structure will result in some diversity of policies and practices, but the opportunity for diversity is purposeful when there are real differences between local communities' needs. Regions will be encouraged to experiment and innovate, drawing on the ideas of Magistrates, Clerks, the legal profession and the local community.

A regional management structure would provide senior management opportunities for Clerks, not currently available within the existing organisation. Better career prospects and opportunities will undoubtedly enhance morale and it will be incumbent on the Court Administration Division to provide appropriate education and training opportunities to assist Clerks to develop the requisite managerial skills.

Just as the move to regionalisation will affect Clerks, so will computerisation. Most of the rote clerical activities which characterise the Clerk's current role will disappear, freeing up Clerks to undertake new roles which will be of greater community benefit and more personally stimulating. At the same time some of the problems which have arisen because of severe under-resourcing of the Courts can be overcome.

Buildings

Court Buildings and Facilities are Uneconomic and Do Not Meet Modern Day Building Requirements.

Political and social pressures have determined Court House locations for the past 150 years. A lack of strategic planning has resulted in a proliferation of individual Court Houses that fail to address the fundamental requirements of an efficient and integrated Court system.

A study of the economic viability of operating single/dual Court room Courts versus Multi-Court room Complexes found that there was considerable scope to achieve economies of scale within the Court system in both the metropolitan area and rural areas of Victoria. The study indicated that output per staff member was higher in the metropolitan Courts than in rural areas for most major activities.

The average rural Court costs approximately \$40,000 more in direct salary costs to support the work of a Magistrate than the average metropolitan Court. Staffing requirements should therefore be closely assessed against the requirements of

Magistrates, service delivery to the public and the benefits to be gained through the use of modern computer-based systems.

The study concluded that the means of achieving both economies of scale and better service delivery to the community were through:

- Concentration of Court hearing activities via improved listing systems.
- Construction of multi-court room Court Complexes (like Prahran, Broadmeadows) at appropriate locations in metropolitan and rural areas rather than construction of any further single or dual Court room Court Houses.
- The development of a network of visiting services to communities where services are not currently provided including those communities which may not previously have had such services available.

A study of Magistrates' Court usage in rural Victoria was undertaken using information provided by Clerks of Courts. The study profiled Court sitting days and hours, case volume and case type, hearing time for each case type, the number of cases involving local residents and staffing levels.

The study indicated a significant under-utilisation of existing resources with 85% of rural Court Houses operating at less than 40% of available capacity. A study undertaken into Court usage in metropolitan areas has also indicated significant under-utilisation of available Court room resources.

A "Courts Needs Study" (the report of which is available separately) undertaken by the Public Works Department and the Building and Properties Division, Law Department, developed a set of "Minimum Standards" for Court House accommodation and measured the adequacy of all Victorian Courts against those standards. It was found that the majority of currently-used Courts are below these standards in terms of the range and quality of facilities provided and have limited or no development or redevelopment potential.

In addition to accommodation space problems, the state of building services and general building security is frequently poor. Heating is usually inadequate and many Court Houses have no cooling services. In some instances no hot water is provided and toilet facilities for staff and public are crude and even non-existent within the Court building.

Much of the Court House stock which is little used represents a valuable community resource which is effectively being wasted. Many of those Court buildings, too, are of significance to the local and/or State heritage but are falling into disrepair and decay.

Their level of use as Courts does not justify more than limited expenditure on maintenance. It is proposed that with the establishment of the regional management structure, regional managing Clerks will in consultation with local communities, ascertain what alternative use might be made of Court Houses without interfering with the use of the buildings as Hearing Courts when required. This will allow opportunities for local activities to be developed in buildings that were previously wasted from a community viewpoint.

As an output for the consultation a prioritized capital works program will be developed for Court Houses to be implemented as resources are made available. This program will include not only the refurbishment of retained facilities, but where appropriate, the construction of additions to those facilities so that they meet the "Minimum Standards" of the range and quality of facilities and services. The works program will also provide for the construction of completely new facilities where these are identified as being required.

An important element of the proposed maintenance, refurbishment and building strategy is to re-establish or maintain the architectural integrity of those retained Courts buildings which are important to Victoria's heritage.

Unfortunately, many of the 19th Century buildings and furniture have been altered or adapted unsympathetically with their environment. A program providing for the systematic restoration of all 19th Century furniture within the Courts has already commenced.

It is the Law Department's desire that Court Houses having historic significance should be developed in partnership with local government, local historical societies and groups and regional galleries so that artworks, photographs and other appropriate memorabilia reflecting the history of the local community and the Court can be permanently displayed.

The above issues have been addressed in the following section and strategies for change are proposed. These strategies do not necessarily cover all the aspects of the problems which have been outlined, but the proposals are formulated with the aim of creating a structure for the management and development of Courts in Victoria, which will enable them to be readily resolved in the future.

4. STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE

REGIONALISATION

Problems Identified: Directions for Change

Clerks of Courts have a direct reporting responsibility to the Courts Administration Division of the Law Department. All decisions concerning operational procedures, staff allocation and Court House maintenance emanate from this centralised administration in Melbourne. Until recently Clerks have neither had the opportunity nor the encouragement to participate in the decision-making process.

With the growth in the judiciary, caseloads in the courts, and new legislation over the last four decades the Central Administration of the Courts has now found itself ill-equipped to cope with its increasing and changing responsibilities. The handling of urgent day to day transactions diverted resources which should have been directed to developing long-term policies, defining local Court needs and setting priorities for Court services. Accordingly, decisions taken were often inappropriate, untimely, or quite often 'shelved', and not taken at all.

At the other end of the scale, Clerks of Courts have not had the authority or resources to implement changes, many of which reflected local community needs. For example, Clerks had little control over the number of hearing days allocated to accommodate the flow of work in their Courts.

The problem has been further compounded because of varying conditions throughout the State. Local social, economic and demographic characteristics differ greatly. Blanket policies were determined for the State as a whole without consideration of the obvious disparity in the needs between Courts and regions.

Information relayed to the Central Administration by Clerks was based on set criteria which failed to reflect the needs for variations in the system. Problems not common to all areas tend not to have been identified and, accordingly, changes made were not always appropriate. Further, a sense of common purpose between Central Administration and Clerks did not develop, hence the need now for change and new directions.

The Proposed Regional Structure

Any new structure must incorporate a mechanism enabling particular local needs to be accommodated both effectively and speedily. Continued over-centralisation cannot achieve this; regionalisation can. Accordingly, it is proposed that each Magistrates' Court operate as a part of a region. Four regions would be established in the metropolitan area and four in the rural area. The County Court and the Supreme Court will continue to function separately, with each continuing to be administered centrally, whilst the Children's Court and the Coroner's Court will continue to report directly to the Courts Administration Division.

Through the division of the State into these administrative regions, local needs may be identified and dealt with "on the spot". Long term policies will be developed and implemented within each region.

The proposed regions largely represent aggregations of the State Administrative Regions, as designated by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. These regions have been developed to ensure that as far as is possible common boundaries are recognised when regionalisation programs are undertaken by government departments. There are a few Courts which although, situated outside particular regional boundaries, have been included within a region for administrative purposes. For instance, Werribee is included in the metropolitan area under the State Administrative Regional plan, however, for Court purposes it is included in the Geelong Region. Other variations include Wonthaggi, Cowes and Lang Lang, which have been included in the Moe Region rather than the metropolitan area. Existing Court staff and Magistrates service these Courts from the Gippsland area. It would be impractical to attempt to service them from Frankston or Dandenong. Additionally, Courts such as Kyabram, Nathalia, Avoca, Bunyip and Gisborne are to be serviced from adjoining regions in accord with existing practice.

The size of the proposed Court regions was determined by relative work loads. Appendix 1 provides details of the Courts in each proposed region, with regional headquarters indicated.

Regional Managers

Officers responsible for each region will be appointed from the ranks of Clerks of Courts. Although they will be accountable to a centralised and streamlined Central Administration in Melbourne, it is intended that many areas of responsibility, currently vested in the Central

Administration, will be delegated to these Regional Managers. The managers will have the power to make decisions regarding day to day transactions. They will be expected to identify and set priorities for needs within their own regions.

The transfer of authority to the managers will enable the Central Administration to devote its energy and resources to considering longer term issues and policies, and to the development of guidelines for the implementation of such policies. The responsibility for co-ordination of the various regions will remain with the Central Administration.

Regional Managers will be expected to ensure that optimum use is made of available resources, and they will be responsible for planning and regional budgeting. A major role will include liaison with relevant community-based organizations and government instrumentalities in order to develop a suitable network for delivery of Court services and to engender local participation in the planning and development of the Court system in each region. Such input will enable Regional Managers to competently advise the central administration as to long term policies for the State and, more particularly, to propose projects that improve the provision of Court services in each region.

The major benefit to members of the public will be a more efficient and relevant Court system, capable of adapting to changing community needs.

COURT FUNCTIONS

Courts within each region can be classified according to their primary functions within the regional management structure:

- **Regional Headquarters Courts**
- **Mention Courts**
- **Hearing Courts**

Additionally, locations have been nominated for the provision of **visiting services** by Clerks of Courts. The remainder of this section outlines the functions of Courts in each classification and in particular the role of visiting Clerks of Courts.

Regional Headquarters Courts

It is proposed that each region shall be administered from a Headquarters Court. Every Regional Headquarters Court will

contain a Mention Court. In the rural area (with the exception of Moe), the Regional Headquarters Court would also be a multi-jurisdictional Court (i.e. also be the location for sittings of the Supreme Court and County Court).

In determining the location of Regional Headquarters Courts, the function of these Courts as defined by the objectives of the Courts Management Change Program is relevant. These objectives ensure:

- the establishment of an efficient and effective Court system within each region.
- the development of linkages with local communities to ensure their input into the planning and development of the Court system within the region; and
- the development of linkages with community agencies to increase their involvement in the delivery of Court services.

To achieve these objectives, the Regional Manager will be expected to deal with a wide range of people. These might include Judges, Magistrates, officers performing equivalent duties in other government departments and representatives from regional community groups. Such interactions will be made easier and be more effective if Headquarters Courts are located in regional centres where the majority of these people are based or where they might be based in the future. Taking this approach, the following criteria have been developed:-

Headquarters Courts should be sited in regional centres which are:

- The location of the headquarters offices for other agencies. Such agencies might include:
 - Police
 - Department of Community Services
 - Office of Corrections
 - Department of Social Security
 - Legal Aid Commission; and
 - Various Welfare Agencies.
- Designated as the preferred location for the establishment of regional offices of Government Departments and Agencies by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- In the rural area, the present locations for the sittings of the Supreme and County Courts.

- The location of the Regional Consultative Councils or any other appropriate consultative groups.

Mention Courts

Until very recently, persons charged with offences were required to appear primarily at the Court nearest where the offence occurred. With the introduction of the Mention System this has changed. Now, in each geographical area, a Court is selected and designated as a Mention Court. Every case occurring in the area is channelled through the Mention Court. If a person pleads guilty at the Mention Court his/her case is disposed of that day. If there is a plea of not guilty or no appearance the case is adjourned either to that Court or to another Court within the area (known as a Hearing Court).

The "Mention System", which does not currently apply to the civil jurisdiction, has been developed pursuant to a principal objective of the Courts Management Change Program. It facilitates the efficient management of Court business, ensures certainty of hearing dates, reduces waiting periods at Courts, effectively utilizes judicial resources and facilities, and introduces speedy hearings.

The Mention System achieves this objective by ensuring that the Court has control over the number of cases to be heard on any particular day and by dispensing with the attendance of police and witnesses when they are not required. The first aspect necessitates that all process is filed at a central location for the allocation of dates, and the second necessitates that no formal prosecution evidence is given on the "mention day".

Defendants pleading guilty have cases dealt with immediately and those pleading not guilty are given later dates to appear, when the police informants involved in the case are available.

Fifty-two per cent of all cases heard during the trial of the Mention System at Moonee Ponds and Prahran did not require the attendance of police. Previously, police had been required to attend and, in many instances, to spend long hours waiting for cases to be heard.

The new system allows attendance to the more important duties and also means that civilian witnesses are not required to give up a day's work unnecessarily.

In addition, Court time, which had previously been wasted by the unnecessary evidence of police witnesses, is saved and a greater number of cases are dealt with, thus reducing the backlog in cases and the overall arrest/summons to hearing period.

"Mention Days" might still be held at convenient Courts which are otherwise Hearing Courts depending on the demand for such a service and a sufficient workload to justify the attendance of a Magistrate.

To obviate the problem of cases being delayed inordinately until a day's work has been organized, Courts could be held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in Hearing Courts to enable Magistrates to attend at two locations in one day, or to attend to other duties at the Mention Courts during the other part of the day.

In the metropolitan area Mention Courts have been established at Broadmeadows, Williamstown, Preston, Oakleigh, Dandenong, Frankston, Box Hill and Werribee. Additional Courts may be designated Mention Courts at a later date once the system has been operating for some time and its operations have been assessed. The long term metropolitan strategy envisages Mention Courts at additional locations in District Centres.

Other considerations determining the location of Mention Courts in the Metropolitan area include the existence of headquarters for police, solicitors, other regular Court users and Court support and welfare agencies in the suburbs proposed.

The relative population density in the Metropolitan area dictates that a number of Mention Courts be located within relative proximity to one another. High caseloads permit easier organisation of dates and judicial resources so that reasonable access to Courts is available via the public transport network.

In rural areas, distance and public transport availability are important considerations when assessing the location of Mention Courts. However, since caseloads in the country are relatively low and magisterial manpower spread thinly, judicious appraisal will be necessary. It is vital that magisterial resources be better utilised in the country than at present. The experience gained in Geelong and Gippsland will be of special assistance in reaching future decisions on location of Mention Courts and deployment of Magistrates and support staff. This paper proposes Mention Court locations; these may change as a result of this consultation. Future changes can be made after the system has been in operation for sufficient time and local needs can be assessed.

Existing buildings can be upgraded or replaced and are therefore a secondary consideration in any set of criteria. However, other existing conditions less amenable to change, such as the presence of regular Court prosecuting agencies and police divisional headquarters, are of major importance.

Mention Courts will have two functions. Firstly, that of controlling the allocation of Court lists and magisterial resources to the surrounding Hearing Courts and within the Mention Court itself. And secondly, that of accommodating a significant proportion of the Court hearings for the area.

The demand for such functions is indicated by the Court utilisation statistics for each Court location. These represent the number of days on which hearings are conducted, expressed as a percentage of the number of available Court days during a year (249).

If there is a number of regular Court users concentrated in a town, the percentage will be high in comparison with other population centres in the area. Additionally, a relatively large population will result in a high percentage as will the geographic and commercial identity of the town as the natural centre for the surrounding catchment area.

To facilitate the operation of a Mention Court a direction is given that all Court process for a given area will be lodged at the Mention Court and that there should be regular liaison between the Court and the established Court users. These users include police, solicitors and local councils. Accordingly, Mention Courts should be located in centres with a high concentration of these agencies.

Buildings which are to house Mention Courts should have the capacity to accommodate more than one hearing at a time, a group of Magistrates and supporting staff, and, if possible, a range of ancillary services such as the Office of Corrections, Legal Aid or the Salvation Army. It is anticipated that the introduction of the Mention System will attract those agencies to Mention Court locations.

The above considerations have been developed as criteria for locating Mention Courts and have been applied in the regional proposals. Towns where Mention Courts have been located are characterised by the following criteria:

- Large population centres.

- The town should be the commercial centre for the area. This is indicated by the range of government and non-government services available enabling residents from surrounding areas to make multi-purpose trips to the town.
- The areas serviced should maintain a geographic identity with the town. (Natural barriers may affect otherwise obvious catchment areas.)
- A number of regular Court users should be established within the town. As well as solicitors and police, local councils and government departments with prosecuting sections merit consideration.
- The town has established welfare, and in some places Court, support agencies which service the surrounding area.

Though some rural towns do not fit all of these criteria, Mention Courts have been established because the towns are more than two hours return journey from the nearest Mention Court (e.g. Orbost). Alternatively, towns which do fit these criteria but are located within one hour's return journey of the nearest Mention Court have been designated hearing facilities only (e.g. Stawell).

Hearing Courts

The objectives of the Courts Management Change Program include:

- providing and maintaining adequate and accessible hearing facilities throughout rural Victoria; and
- encouraging alternative community use of existing low volume Court Houses, where the use will not be incompatible with the requirement to retain such facilities for the purposes of Court hearings when the need arises.

In order to achieve these objectives it is necessary to have a sufficient number of widely-located Court facilities which are capable of accommodating community activities at times when Court hearings are not being conducted. Such buildings need only have facilities for single hearings, and need not be developed to minimum standards. The criteria which have been applied were developed on the basis of function, demand and requirements, are as follows:

- Hearing venues are to be located in the larger townships and they are to be located in remote towns with smaller populations, but which service large catchment areas.
- Towns where hearing venues are located should have established Court user agencies such as police, solicitors and local councils.
- Where possible, hearing venues are also to be network centres for visiting services.
- Towns with hearing venues should be transport hubs, with good rail and road services enabling access from outlying areas.

In the Metropolitan area all existing Courts, which are not Mention Courts, are Hearing Courts. As the Mention System is refined and Court Complexes are developed further reviews on the classification of Courts will occur.

Visiting Services

It is proposed that Clerks of Courts visit a large number of locations in rural Victoria to provide an expanded range of services from suitable facilities, which may not necessarily be Court Houses.

Clerks of Courts presently provide a broad range of services and perform a number of tasks associated with administering Courts. These are outlined in Appendix 2. In respect of some of these functions there is a need for Clerks of Courts to be available to members of the public on a face to face basis. The Appendix also includes a range of information services of a legal and advisory nature, which may be seen by some as a traditional role of Clerks of Courts. This role has emerged because Courts are increasingly perceived in the community as an obvious focus and initial source of information about the legal system. Not all Clerks of Courts provide all of these information services. This service currently depends upon the experience, training and initiative of individual Clerks of Courts.

In the past the philosophy that the services of Clerks of Courts, and indeed the present Clerks of Courts themselves, should only be available within Court Houses has meant that there has been a steady decline in the number of service delivery locations throughout Victoria as Courts have been closed. Clerks of Courts have not been directed to maintain services in the areas where closures have occurred. Consequently, the cost or inconvenience of travelling to the nearest operational Court House has reduced access to these

services. The above proposal effectively replaces these services in areas where such closures have occurred, and establishes services in some other areas which have increased in population in recent years.

Services to be provided by Visiting Clerks of Courts

Clerks of Courts will be able to conduct interviews and provide services in suitable accommodation, preferably with telephone facilities, in order to contact Courts in relation to penalties and applications for more time to pay fines. Eventually Clerks will have access to central computers. Accommodation might include council offices, community buildings, or leased commercial premises. Clerks may even operate from mobile caravans. All facilities should enable Clerks to conduct private interviews.

A series of visiting networks will be established in each region and it is proposed that an experienced Clerk of Courts should service each network.

Clerks will continue the services they currently provide and might also offer a range of expanded services. For example, Clerks might accept payment of fines regardless of where the fine was imposed. Similarly, maintenance may be accepted at locations other than the Court where the order is registered.

In addition to undertaking Court related duties, Clerks might also act as agents for other departments. Clerks might play a larger role in small claims or residential tenancies cases or in processing various applications. They might also distribute information in the form of pamphlets.

Such an additional service is required especially in rural areas as there is not the range of Government agencies which exist in the metropolitan area. The Clerk of Courts has traditionally been the Government representative in remote country areas and this role may be expanded, especially once Clerks have computer access. This is a matter for negotiation with other departments, and for further public consultation.

The demand for Court services should increase significantly as Court systems become fully computerised and visiting Clerks are provided with portable computers linked to central data banks.

In addition to access to information concerning Courts in all jurisdictions throughout Victoria, clients could also have access to the full range of services presently provided by

the Law Department. Thus a solicitor in Charlton, for example, would be able to obtain information concerning a matter in which he acts, even though it may be listed for hearing in the Supreme Court at Bendigo.

Criteria for determining where visiting services are to be allocated.

The criteria applied to designate visited locations are as follows:-

- Visiting services are to be provided to townships servicing significant catchment populations;
- Visiting Networks are to be so structured as to enable visiting Clerks to service each location via principal highways or main through roads.
- Headquarters Courts for the provision of visiting networks are to be selected from major population areas where Court Houses are presently situated.
- Networks are to be structured to enable visiting Clerks to service one or more locations within a normal working day with travelling times of less than 2 hours in total.
- Visiting services are to be concentrated in towns where police stations and solicitors' offices are located.
- Where possible, visiting networks are to remain within the proposed regional structure.
- Where possible, Clerks are to reside in network centres.

The level of demand for such activities will depend upon the type of service the visiting Clerks provide and the differing requirements of each area.

Initially, Clerks will make fortnightly or monthly visits for a few hours at each location. The success of the visits will depend largely upon re-education of the public to take advantage of the new mode of service delivery. Education programs might include local advertising campaigns and the production of a series of publications for distribution in local areas.

Additionally, toll free telephones may be installed in regional Courts enabling members of the public to arrange appointments with visiting Clerks. Telephone recording services might also be installed at network centres. Clerks

may make home visits if necessary to members of the public in remote areas or in disadvantaged circumstances.

The major benefits to members of rural communities will be a more efficient and convenient service, a reduction in the amount of time spent pursuing Court matters, easy access to information about Government Departments and community organizations, and a greater opportunity to discuss problems with a Clerk of Courts.

COURT FACILITIES

Court House Development

An important objective of consultation is to gain community views on proposals for upgrading existing buildings and for constructing new Court complexes. Those views will be translated into a detailed list of priorities for a works and services program to be implemented as resources are made available.

In the metropolitan area priority will be given to developing the Central Business District Courts. These include the Supreme Court, the County Court and the Melbourne Magistrates' Court. Court Complexes proposed to be built in the suburbs are detailed later in the section on the metropolitan area.

The developmental priority of rural Courts will be determined according to the category within which it falls. Category A Courts will have priority over Category B and Category C Courts and will be upgraded to minimum standards. Category B Courts have a lesser priority but adherence to minimum standards is still required. Category C Courts have no priority and will not be developed. They will be maintained as hearing venues and in addition be made available to the local community for joint usage with the Court.

In allocating Courts into categories the same criteria are to be applied as those applied in determining the locations of headquarters Courts or multi jurisdictional Courts, Mention Court and hearing facilities. These are Category A, B and C respectively.

The following table gives the category of each of the Courts in the rural area, the present cost of maintaining them and the estimated cost to upgrade them to minimum standards. It can be seen that Courts within Category C would cost in excess of \$20 million to upgrade to minimum standards.

Courts within Category A will have the highest priority for development in the Works and Services Program. The order of re-development will turn on considerations of the existing facilities, projected local requirements and historic classifications.

COURT	CATEGORY	MAINTENANCE COST 5 - 10 YEAR PERIOD	ESTIMATED COST TO UPGRADE TO MINIMUM STANDARDS
MOE	A	\$15,000	\$50,000
SALE (H)	A	\$30,000	\$1.2m. (Currently under renovation. Will be a 3 Court complex.)
GEELONG	A	\$40,000	\$3m.(inc. Public Offices and existing Court)
BALLARAT	A	\$30,000	\$2m.
WARRNAMBOOL	A	\$30,000	\$1m.
HAMILTON	A	\$20,000	\$1m.
SHEPPARTON	A	\$40,000	\$5m. (New Complex)
WANGARATTA	A	\$25,000	\$1m. (Currently being renovated - 3 Court complex)
BENDIGO (H)	A	\$50,000	\$2m.
HORSHAM	A	\$10,000	\$700,000
MILDURA	A	\$40,000	\$3m.

(H) Historic classification

COURT	CATEGORY	MAINTENANCE COST 5 - 10 YEAR PERIOD	ESTIMATED COST TO UPGRADE TO MINIMUM STANDARDS
KORUMBURRA	B	\$20,000	\$50,000
WONTHAGGI	B	\$30,000	\$800,000
BAIRNSDALE (H)	B	\$25,000	\$1m.
WARRAGUL (H)	B	\$30,000	\$800,000
TRARALGON (H)	B	\$15,000	N.A.*
MORWELL	B	\$20,000	\$800,000
ARARAT (H)	B	\$15,000	N.A.*
COLAC	B	\$10,000	\$50,000
PORTLAND (H)	B	\$20,000	N.A.*
BEECHWORTH (H)	B	\$15,000	\$70,000 (Additional Court Room. Portable Annexe.)
BENALLA	B	\$15,000	\$100,000
MANSFIELD (H)	B	\$25,000	\$1.2m (or \$70,000. same as Beechworth)
SEYMOUR	B	\$15,000	\$300,000
TALLANGATTA	B	\$15,000	\$500,000
WODONGA	B	\$15,000	\$500,000
CASTLEMAINE (H)	B	\$15,000	N.A. ©
MARYBOROUGH (H)	B	\$15,000	N.A. ©
ST. ARNAUD (H)	B	\$25,000	\$800,000
ECHUCA (H)	B	\$80,000	N.A. #
KYNETON (H)	B	\$15,000	\$15,000
KERANG	B	\$20,000	\$500,000
SWAN HILL	B	\$15,000	\$100,000

OUYEN	B	\$15,000	\$1m. (or \$70,000 same as Beechworth)
ROBINVALE	B	\$15,000	\$500,000
NHILL	B	\$25,000	\$1m.
RED CLIFFS	B	\$15,000	\$800,000

(H) Historic Classification

- * No expansion capacity. If to be upgraded to minimum standards will (i.e. 2 Court complex) require new premises.
- ⊖ No expansion potential Historic class, if to be upgraded to 2 Court complex will need to be relocated.
- # New premises to be leased from City of Echuca by 1987.

COURT	CATEGORY	MAINTENANCE COST 5 - 10 YEAR PERIOD	ESTIMATED COST TO UPGRADE TO MINIMUM STANDARDS
LEONGATHA	C	\$15,000	\$800,000
ORBOST (H)	C	\$20,000	\$500,000
OME0 (H)	C	\$25,000	\$800,000
YARRAM (H)	C	\$20,000	\$1m.
DAYLESFORD (H)	C	\$30,000	\$1m.
BACCHUS MARSH (H)	C	\$25,000	\$1m.
STAWELL	C	\$25,000	\$800,000
CAMPERDOWN (H)	C	\$40,000	\$1m.
PORT FAIRY (H)	C	\$20,000	\$800,000
COBRAM	C	\$20,000	\$800,000
NUMURKAH (H)	C	\$15,000	\$1m.
RUSHWORTH	C	\$15,000	\$800,000
TATURA	C	\$20,000	\$800,000
MYRTLEFORD	C	\$20,000	\$500,000
BRIGHT (H)	C	\$30,000	\$800,000
ALEXANDRA (H)	C	\$15,000	N.A. *
KILMORE (H)	C	\$25,000	\$1.5m.
YEA	C	\$15,000	\$30,000 #
EUROA (H)	C	\$20,000	\$70,000 ©
CORRYONG	C	\$25,000	\$500,000
YARRAWONGA (H)	C	\$15,000	\$800,000
RUTHERGLEN	C	\$15,000	\$70,000 ©
NATHALIA	C	LEASED	N.A.
KYABRAM	C	\$25,000	\$800,000
ROCHESTER	C	\$20,000	\$2m.

ELMORE	C	\$15,000	\$80,000
LAKES ENTRANCE	C	N/A	N/A
WHITTLESEA	C	\$30,000	\$800,000
ELTHAM	C	\$20,000	\$1.5m.
SUNBURY	C	\$25,000	\$1m.
HOPETOUN	C	\$20,000	\$500,000

(H) Historic Classification

- * This Court forms part of the Public Offices and expansion possibilities are nil. To upgrade to minimum standards will require new premises.
- # This Court forms part of the Council premises. Expansion potential to provide 2 Courts will be achievable by leasing Council Chambers (\$30,000 furniture and equipment - minor alterations).
- © Potential land development (portable same as Beechworth).
- + Historic Court no land potential for expansion. Will need total relocation if to be upgraded to 2 Court complex.

Court Complexes

In the past, the Law Department has followed a policy of providing small, isolated Courts with one or two Court rooms and few other facilities, in a large number of locations across the State. More recently the emphasis has shifted to constructing Court complexes such as at Prahran and Broadmeadows which are more suited to modern Court needs and which meet minimum standards.

An objective of the Courts Management Change Program is to plan to build or develop Court complexes strategically located in the rural and metropolitan areas, with the capacity to accommodate several formal Court rooms, one or two informal hearing rooms and facilities for ancillary services such as Legal Aid, Probation Officers and the Salvation Army.

The benefits of such an approach are fourfold. Persons attending Court will be provided with a much broader range of services, judicial resources will be more effectively organised, staff will have increased career opportunities, and the overall cost of the system will be reduced because of economies of scale.

New Court complexes are planned to contain three or more formal Court rooms, one or two informal hearing rooms for use by Tribunals or in pre-trial conferences, a number of interview rooms with telephone facilities for the use of ancillary service agencies on Court days, adequate staff facilities, including security arrangements for judicial officers, and improved facilities for members of the public. Provision will be made for disabled persons and nursing mothers in addition to adequate visual and acoustic privacy for persons seeking the advice of Clerks of Courts.

Waiting areas will be well designed with seating and refreshment facilities. Public address systems and signs indicating different Court rooms and service locations in various languages will ensure that persons attending do not miss the calling of cases, or fail to get appropriate advice prior to the hearings.

Computers will be installed in all complexes, thus reducing storage problems, and maximising the efficient operation of the office function.

In the rural areas complexes will also contain provision for multi-jurisdictional hearings. Jury rooms, judges chambers and libraries will be included.

Benefits to Members of the Public

The concentration of Court hearing functions in complexes will result in increased provision of Court based support services. At Prahran these services include representatives of the Prisons Division, the Probation Officer, various Attendance Centres, organisers of Community Service Order projects, 'Network', the Salvation Army, Legal Aid, Odyssey House and the Police Prosecutions Section. A side effect of the gathering of all of these representatives under one roof has been the development of strong interpersonal relationships and a greater appreciation of the roles each plays in the Court system. Following from this, persons attending Prahran Court are referred by any of these representatives to the appropriate service they might require. A much broader range of service options is thus available. It is confidently expected that as experience grows in the operations of Court complexes, the referral and support services will be further improved and refined.

Additionally, because of the large number of cases being heard in the building, it is common for persons in need of a particular service to be assisted by a person there on behalf of another. This is especially so in the case of interpreters.

In cases where the Stipendiary Magistrate might decide that a pre-sentence report is necessary or that the person should be assessed for suitability at an Attendance Centre or Community Service Order, representatives are immediately available to give either verbal or written recommendations to the Magistrate. This also saves costs incurred by the Prisons Division and the Probation Service, in both administrative and accommodation expenses.

Waiting facilities in Court complexes will represent a major improvement on those offered in smaller Courts. Telephones, the opportunity for private conference with legal representatives, access to a range of Court support services, adequate seating and refreshment machines will be available in generally pleasant surroundings.

Benefits in the Organisation of Judicial Resources

The main advantage in the organisation of judicial resources applying to Court complexes is that a group of Magistrates is assembled under the one roof. The pool, so created, allows administrative flexibility in allocating cases during the day.

At the complexes of Prahran and Melbourne, prior to the introduction of the Mention System, the existence of such a pool assisted the expeditious disposal of cases notwithstanding that little was known about the time each case would take prior to the Court day.

The introduction of the civil listing system and the Mention System has given a marked degree of control to Court staff in allocating cases to a particular day depending upon their predicted length. Magistrates can then be made available to hear cases without wasting valuable time. However, a percentage of cases do not take place as predicted due to adjournments or last minute changes in pleas. Magistrates, especially if located in single room Court Houses, where there is no other work, then have little to do, when they might be hearing another case. In a complex, they have the opportunity of taking other cases waiting to be heard. Alternatively, if there are too many cases for a single Magistrate to hear, facilities are often inadequate to send a free Magistrate from another Court to assist. Cases are then adjourned and backlogs increase. In a complex this tends not to occur.

Additionally, if Magistrates have to disqualify themselves from hearing cases because they might know the parties involved or have already heard cases involving the same incident, the option exists in a complex to transfer cases to another Magistrate. In a single Court location an adjournment would probably result incurring increased costs to witnesses, complainants, police and defendants.

Benefits to Staff

The introduction of Court complexes will improve career opportunities for Clerks of Courts, because complexes require larger staff complements with revised management structures. The increased number of complexes will mean an increased number of available senior positions. At present the large number of small Courts carry, at best, middle range classifications and Clerks have little chance of advancing. Complexes will provide this opportunity.

Clerks of Courts will also have the opportunity to specialise as the workload at complexes will be divided functionally. At Prahran, Clerks of Courts work full time in Family Law, the procedural and scheduling aspects of civil litigation, the disbursement of civil litigation, and the disbursement of Poor Box funds. Additional areas of specialisation, including co-ordination of Courts lists, office management and advisory services, enable Clerks to develop skills useful in their later careers.

The fact that Clerks operate exclusively in these areas provides a focal point for referral of a wide range of difficult matters and allows the Clerks to develop a high level of expertise.

Stipendiary Magistrates will derive a number of benefits from operating in Court complexes. Of special significance will be the greater attention given to security problems in the design of new complexes. Existing Courts have few, if any, in-built security features, posing a continual potential danger to Magistrates, staff and members of the public. Complexes will have separate entrances both to the buildings and to the Court rooms, sophisticated alarm devices and well protected Magistrates' Chambers. Additionally, Magistrates will have access to case law and other references, either through computer terminals or in libraries within the complexes.

Benefits due to Economies of Scale

The concentration of Court functions in complexes will allow procedures to be streamlined, a higher degree of staff specialisation, and overall costs to be reduced due to staff members being able to process higher volumes of work.

COURT LOCATIONS

The Melbourne Metropolitan Area

For the purposes of this section the metropolitan area is defined as those areas serviced by the electrified rail network. The Court Houses on the Mornington Peninsula, at Bacchus Marsh, Sunbury, Werribee and Melton, and at Healesville, Whittlesea, Warburton, Berwick, Cranbourne and Pakenham are discussed in the section on the Urban-Rural fringe areas.

The following map outlines the metropolitan regions, headquarters Courts, proposed Court complex locations and the urban-rural fringe Courts.

The long term strategy for the metropolitan area is to provide:

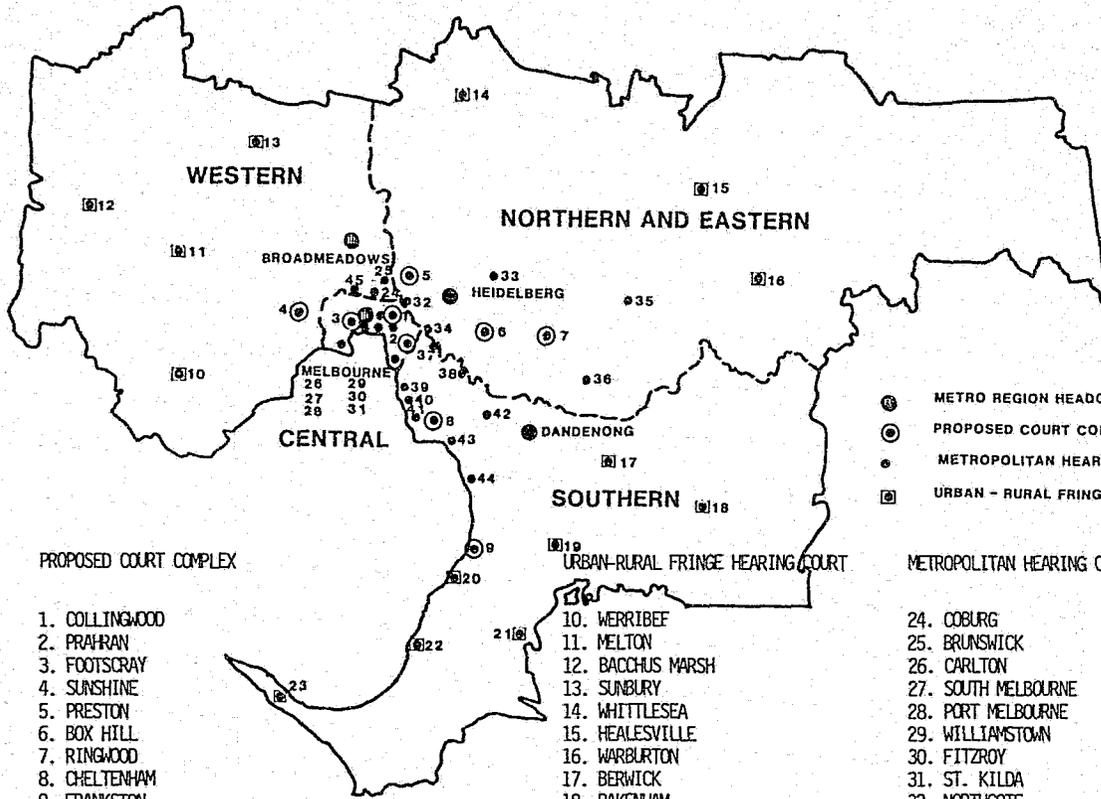
- Court complexes to facilitate the hearing function of Courts;
- localised services at venues other than Court complexes.

Both Court complexes and service venues should be located so as to maximise the opportunities for accessibility by public transport. Court complexes should, so far as possible, be located on the major rail lines and at the district centres designated pursuant to Amendment 150 of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Planning Scheme.

It is proposed that this strategy be implemented as resources are made available. At present there are 25 Courts within the metropolitan area. Access by members of the public to the services of Clerks of Courts is limited to over-the-counter services at each of these locations. The number of Court rooms available for hearing purposes is currently 71, 11 of which are at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court. Hawthorn Court, which is used as an overflow for the Coroner's Court, is excluded.

It is considered that over the decade 1985 - 1995 the needs of the metropolitan area for Court rooms can be met adequately if between 55 and 60 formal Court rooms are available.

This is based on an assessment of the current sitting times in the metropolitan Courts, projected caseloads and the



PROPOSED COURT COMPLEX

1. COLLINGWOOD
2. PRAHRAN
3. FOOTSCRAY
4. SUNSHINE
5. PRESTON
6. BOX HILL
7. RINGWOOD
8. CHELTENHAM
9. FRANKSTON

10. WERRIBEEF
11. MELTON
12. BACCHUS MARSH
13. SUNBURY
14. WHITTLESEA
15. HEALESVILLE
16. WARBURTON
17. BERWICK
18. PAKENHAM
19. CRANBOURNE
20. MORNINGTON
21. HASTINGS
22. DROMANA
23. SORRENTO

- Ⓜ METRO REGION HEADQUARTERS COURT
- ⊙ PROPOSED COURT COMPLEX
- METROPOLITAN HEARING COURT
- Ⓜ URBAN - RURAL FRINGE HEARING COURT

METROPOLITAN HEARING COURT

24. COBURG
25. BRUNSWICK
26. CARLTON
27. SOUTH MELBOURNE
28. PORT MELBOURNE
29. WILLIAMSTOWN
30. FITZROY
31. ST. KILDA
32. NORTHCOTE
33. ELTHAM
34. HAWTHORN
35. LILYDALE
36. FERNTREE GULLY
37. CAMBERWELL
38. OAKLEIGH
39. ELSTERWICK
40. BRIGHTON
41. SANDRINGHAM
42. SPRINGVALE
43. MORDIALLOC
44. CHELSEA
45. MOONEE PONDS

METROPOLITAN REGION

1991-92 R.T. 1

increased efficiency in Court room utilisation resulting from changes to the listing system and the staged development of Court complexes.

Informal Court rooms are to be provided in addition to the target number of formal Court rooms. The informal rooms would be available to handle new business resulting from the proposed changes to the Magistrates' Court jurisdiction and be available for use by Tribunals such as the Small Claims Tribunal and the Residential Tenancies Tribunal. The optimum suburban Court House facility should contain five formal Court rooms and at least one informal Court room. As a general policy it is proposed that no new facility be constructed with less than three formal and one informal Court rooms.

The services of Clerks of Courts will be available both at Court complexes and at other appropriate venues.

Melbourne Magistrates' Court

The Melbourne Magistrates' Court's physical condition, historical classification and unsuitability for adaptation and refurbishment is such that it should receive the highest priority amongst Magistrates' Courts for replacement. The location of a new complex should meet the criteria of being in or contiguous to the legal precinct within the central business district and close to public transport, particularly the metropolitan rail network. These criteria suggest location at or near the Flagstaff, Spencer Street or Museum Stations (with a preference in that order). Whether suitable existing space to lease and refurbish can be found or whether a new building should be constructed are presently under examination by Courts Administration.

Having regard to the size of the existing Melbourne Magistrates' Court (11 Court rooms) and the projected increase in the number of complex committal hearings, it is considered that, at minimum, the new central Court should contain three large Court rooms, ten standard-sized and two informal Court rooms. A second option is to have a significantly larger facility - e.g. three large Court rooms, seventeen standard-sized and four informal Court rooms.

These two options have various advantages and disadvantages. The larger building would lead to a greater concentration of work in the central business district and a concurrent reduction in the volumes of work in the suburban Courts.

The larger 24 room complex would mean that relatively simple matters, as well as the more complex committals, would be

heard at the central Court and more members of the public would have to travel into the city. Regular Court users such as the police, the legal profession and government agencies would have a greater opportunity to rationalise their own operations centrally.

Alternatively, a smaller central complex of 15 Courts would allow the construction of another suburban complex perhaps at Clifton Hill or Collingwood. Minor civil and criminal matters might be heard there and the more complex committals and civil disputes requiring security arrangements and other facilities might be heard in the central complex.

The Proposed Locations for Court Complexes

Court complexes are to be located in suburbs which have been designated as District Centres pursuant to Amendment 150 of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Planning Scheme. Any future developments of other Government Departments or agencies which are pertinent to Courts will also be built in District Centres in conformity with the Scheme. Public transport is available and existing Court user agencies are likely to be prevalent.

The proposed locations are:

DANDENONG

The existing facility which provides two Court rooms has some capacity to be upgraded but the provision of adequate parking facilities may necessitate building on a new site.

FRANKSTON

The present two Court room facility is in reasonably good condition and some adaptation would be possible, but development of a facility of optimum size would require a new site.

CHELTENHAM/SOUTHLAND

A development at this location would serve both the Sandringham and Frankston rail lines. Given the existing Cheltenham Court's location, condition and expansion potential, a replacement facility would have to be provided on a new site.

WAVERLEY

A complex located at Glen Waverley would serve the Waverley line and contribute to the Waverley District Centre. Adaption of the City of Waverley's old municipal office building (currently leased by the Law Department) provides an attractive opportunity for a new complex.

RINGWOOD

A major facility might be located inside the junction of the Lilydale and Ferntree Gully rail lines to service the Ringwood, Box Hill and Lilydale areas. The existing Ringwood and Box Hill facilities are considered to have no development potential without acquiring surrounding lands. Probably a new site would have to be found and developed. Ringwood would be preferred over Box Hill, should the Waverley complex proceed.

SUNSHINE/FOOTSCRAY

Existing Court facilities at both Sunshine and Footscray (the Footscray Court is currently closed for a trial period of six months) are in poor condition and have little development potential. A new facility at either Sunshine or Footscray is considered essential. If Sunshine is chosen as the location, then the Courts at Williamstown and Werribee might be retained and a smaller facility (three Court rooms only) built at Sunshine. If a suitable site can be found in Footscray for a five Court complex then the option exists to redirect cases from Courts at Williamstown and Sunshine and possibly also from Werribee Court.

HEIDELBERG

Although Greensborough, rather than Heidelberg, is designated as the District Centre, it is proposed that the existing Heidelberg facility (which serves the Hurstbridge line) be upgraded to meet minimum standards, but that no additional formal Court room facilities be added.

PRESTON

Preston Court (accessible from the Epping line) is relatively modern, but the site has little scope for expansion. Thus, whilst the upgrading to minimum standards of existing facilities is proposed, the provision of additional hearing space would be limited.

CLIFTON HILL/COLLINGWOOD

A new complex located at the junction of the Epping line, Hurstbridge line and the Eastern Freeway could serve any overflow from Heidelberg and Preston Courts and also serve the inner eastern suburbs in the way that the Prahran complex serves the needs of the inner south-eastern suburbs. In addition, should the option of a smaller facility for the central business district be implemented, a complex at Collingwood/Clifton Hill would be able to handle any overflow business from the Melbourne Court.

PRAHRAN

This complex needs upgrading in order to meet minimum standards. With a relatively minor expenditure on extensions, adequate facilities could be provided for prosecutors and, in addition, adequate interview and further Court rooms could be provided.

BROADMEADOWS

This recently opened court complex has six formal and one informal Court rooms, with attendant facilities.

At present there are six Court Houses in the metropolitan area which are relatively modern, have at least three Court rooms and which can be developed at low cost to meet minimum standards. These are:

Broadmeadows	6 Court rooms
Heidelberg	3 Court rooms
Prahran	5 Court rooms
Preston	3 Court rooms
Williamstown	3 Court rooms
Werribee (Urban-Rural Fringe)	3 Court rooms

The establishment of priorities for the upgrading of the above facilities and the construction of proposed new complexes will be determined by consideration of such matters as the condition of existing facilities, the projected needs of the various areas, including those which are not presently serviced, and the ability of surrounding Courts within different areas to adequately maintain services on an interim basis.

Thus while existing Courts are to be progressively amalgamated and replaced with Court complexes, it is

proposed that Clerks of Courts will provide services from an increased number of locations.

Regional Headquarters Courts in the Metropolitan Area are proposed to be located at Melbourne (the Central Region), Heidelberg (the Northern and Eastern Region), Broadmeadows (the Western Region) and Dandenong (Southern Region).

Existing Courts in each of these regions are detailed in Appendix 1.

The nine Courts which have been closed in the metropolitan area for a trial period of at least six months from 1 February are:

- Carlton
- Collingwood
- Fitzroy
- Coburg
- Footscray
- Brighton
- Chelsea
- Elsternwick
- Eltham

At present a separate community consultation is being undertaken by the Courts Administration Division to determine the impact of these closures and recommendations as to their future will be made to the Attorney-General in due course.

Localised Services

During February the visiting service of a Clerk of Courts from Springvale Court was made available at the new Sheriff's Office located in Glen Waverley on a thrice weekly basis. The provision of this service further shows the implementation of a policy of extending Court services to all areas across the State. This service will be closely monitored with a view to introducing such localised services in other suburbs. The possibility of providing a similar service after normal business hours is also a consideration.

Urban-Rural Fringe Area

The characteristics distinguishing Rural from Metropolitan Areas are outlined elsewhere in this paper. However, such discussion takes no account of a further area which, though sharing certain characteristics of both, does not fit easily into either category. This is the Urban-Rural Fringe Area.

The Urban-Rural Fringe Area includes:

Mornington Peninsula

Cranbourne, Pakenham, Berwick, Warburton, Healesville, Whittlesea, Sunbury, Melton, Bacchus Marsh, Werribee

This third category is recognized as the expanding fringe of the outer-metropolitan area. It is characterized by an upsurge in housing to accommodate the growth in population, the building of schools and shopping centres, and the Government establishment of Area Improvement Programs to cater for the urban spread.

A very significant disadvantage which the Urban-Rural Fringe Area experiences is inadequate public transport within its boundaries. Additionally, there is a predominance of one car and non-car families. These two factors emphasise that travel is a source of concern to many households located in this area. The benefits of the Mention Court system should be assessed against this when locating Mention Courts in this area. Frankston Court has been designated as the Mention Court for the Mornington Peninsula for a trial period from 1 March, 1985. During this period Dromana, Mornington, Hastings and Sorrento Courts will function as Hearing Courts, and all pleas of guilty will be heard at Frankston.

In the Western Suburbs, where Broadmeadows is the Mention Court, the Co-ordinator is currently adjourning cases, including pleas of guilty, to more appropriate Hearing Courts in the Region upon request from defendants unable to attend that Court because of distance and travel problems. The information acquired as a result of these procedures will influence decisions regarding the Mention Court system in the other areas.

Additionally, the changing nature of the Urban-Rural Fringe Area will necessitate the constant monitoring of developments and trends. Information so obtained will form the basis for future planning of Court complexes and the provision of Court services.

Rural Area

In the rural area, in each Region it is proposed to establish a Headquarters Court, Mention Courts, Hearing Courts and Visiting Services. The criteria for locating these Courts and services have been outlined in the preceding sections.

Complexes will be established where the criteria are met. This may result in a region having more than one Court complex.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet has designated various rural locations as "preferred" when regional offices of Government Departments and Agencies are being established. These locations are:

South Western
 Barwon
 Wimmera
 Central Highlands
 Northern Mallee
 Loddon-Campaspe
 Goulburn
 North Eastern
 East Gippsland
 Central Gippsland
 Warrnambool, Portland
 Geelong
 Horsham
 Ballarat
 Mildura, Swan Hill
 Bendigo
 Shepparton, Benalla
 Wodonga, Wangaratta
 Bairnsdale
 Latrobe Valley

Appendix 1 details each of the urban and rural regions, which are named according to their Headquarters Court, as well as the Courts within each region.

The following maps and sections give the visiting service networks, the Mention Courts, and the Headquarters Courts.

Additionally, tables outlining the present and proposed frequency of services to the visited locations and the present and proposed Court days for each Court network, are included.

Statistical information supporting the proposals is given in Appendix 3.

VICTORIA
COURT REGIONS
HEADQUARTERS COURT



BENDIGO



SHEPPARTON

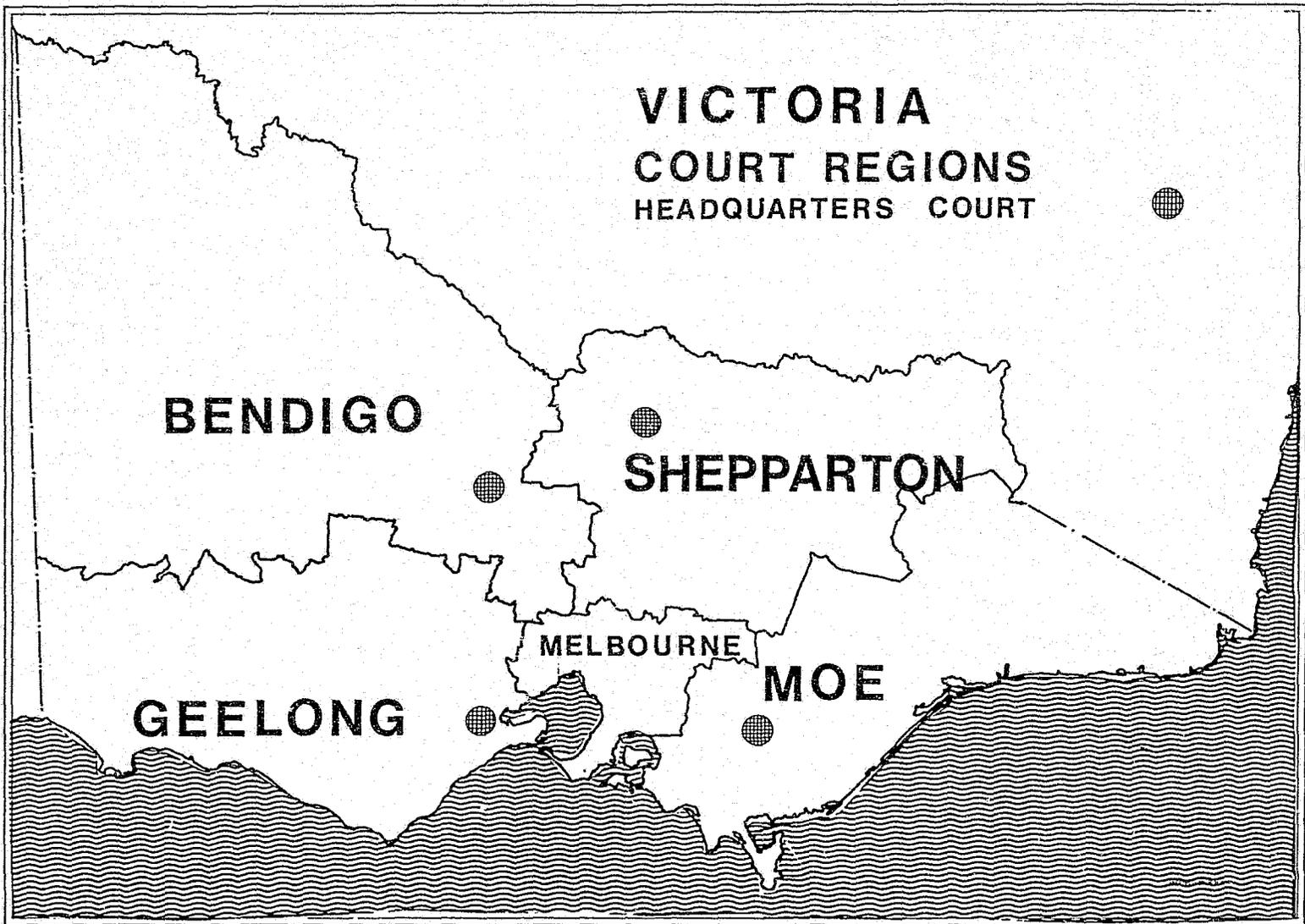


MELBOURNE

GEELONG



MOE



Bendigo Region

The Bendigo Region will incorporate all municipalities found within the Wimmera/Mallee/Loddon Campaspe Area. Bendigo will operate as the regional headquarters.

Each Court within the region has been classified according to established criteria.

It is proposed that the network of visiting services in the region be established as follows:-

Bendigo Court to service:	Eaglehawk Heathcote Inglewood Tarnagulla
Echuca Court to service:	Nathalia Kyabram Rochester Elmore
Horsham Court to service:	Edenhope Natimuk
Kerang Court to service:	Cohuna Quambatook Pyramid Hill Boort
Kyneton Court to service:	Trentham Woodend Gisborne Romsey Lancefield
Maryborough Court to service:	Castlemaine Maldon Newstead Dunolly Avoca
Mildura Court to service:	Merbein Red Cliffs
Nhill Court to service:	Hopetoun Warracknabeal Rainbow Jeparit Kaniva Dimboola

Ouyen Court to service:

Robinvale
Manangatang
Underbool
Murrayville
Sea Lake
Woomelang

St. Arnaud Court to service:

Wycheproof
Charlton
Wedderburn
Birchip
Donald

Stawell Court to service:

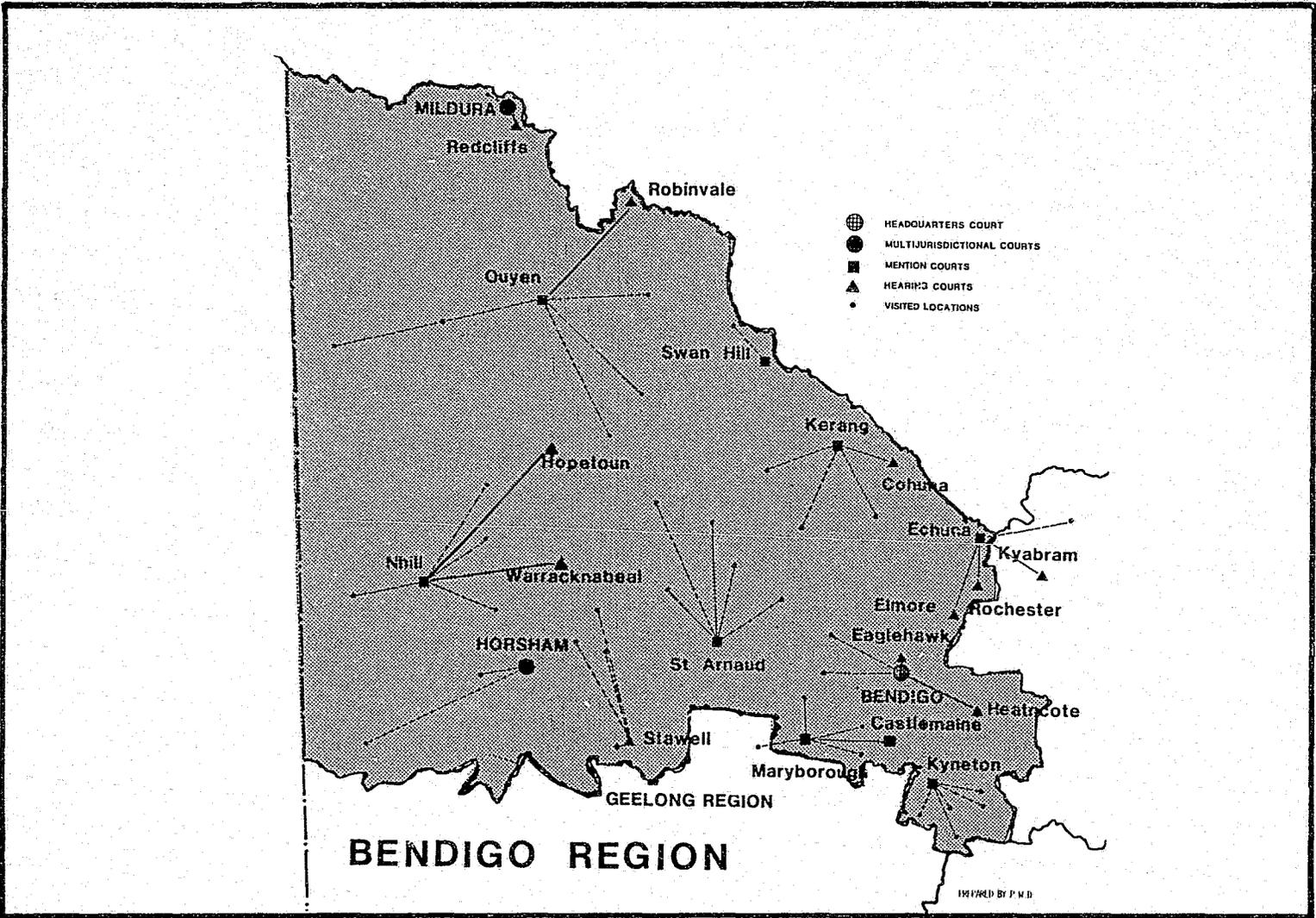
Murtoa
Rupanyup
Minyip
Halls Gap

Swan Hill Court to service:

Nyah West

It becomes readily apparent, upon perusal of this proposed network of visiting services, that thirty-four towns will benefit from the policy of extending services provided by Clerks of Courts throughout the State. Once again, St. Arnaud will resume its original status as a Headquarters Court with a resident Clerk. Courts traditionally serviced by St. Arnaud will once again be visited from St. Arnaud.

The map of the region shows the location of the Regional Headquarters Court, Multi-jurisdictional Courts, Mention Courts, Hearing Courts and the visiting service network.



COURT BENDIGO

REGION BENDIGO

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
BENDIGO (R.C.) EAGLEHAWK (V.C.) HEATHCOTE (V.C.)	BENDIGO (R.C.) EAGLEHAWK (V.C.) HEATHCOTE (V.C.) INGLEWOOD (V.C.) TARNAGULLA (V.C.)	DAILY WEEKLY (1 DAY) WEEKLY (1 DAY) NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	DAILY WEEKLY (1 DAY) WEEKLY (1 DAY) FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	BENDIGO BENDIGO BENDIGO BENDIGO

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT BENDIGO

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
BENDIGO EAGLEHAWK HEATHCOTE	A C C	BENDIGO EAGLEHAWK HEATHCOTE	123 DAYS 12 DAYS 13 DAYS	100 DAYS	BENDIGO

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;
 additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT ECHUCA

REGION BENDIGO

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
ECHUCA (R.C.) NATHALIA (V.C.) KYABRAM (V.C.) ROCHESTER (V.C.)	ECHUCA (R.C.) NATHALIA (V.C.) KYABRAM (V.C.) ROCHESTER (V.C.) ELMORE (V.C.)	DAILY FORTNIGHTLY (½ DAY) WEEKLY (1 DAY) NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	DAILY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	ECHUCA ECHUCA ECHUCA ECHUCA ECHUCA

COURT HEARING FACILITIES MENTION COURT ECHUCA

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
ECHUCA NATHALIA KYABRAM ROCHESTER	B C C C	ECHUCA NATHALIA KYABRAM ROCHESTER	86 DAYS 6 DAYS 25 DAYS 24 DAYS	26 DAYS	ECHUCA

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;
 additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT HORSHAM

REGION BENDIGO

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
HORSHAM (R.C.)	HORSHAM (R.C.) EDENHOPE (V.C.) NATIMUK (V.C.)	DAILY NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	DAILY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	HORSHAM HORSHAM HORSHAM

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT HORSHAM

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
HORSHAM	A	HORSHAM	81 DAYS	52 DAYS	HORSHAM

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT KERANGREGION BENDIGO

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
KERANG (R.C.) COHUNA (V.C.)	KERANG (R.C.) COHUNA (V.C.) QUAMBATOOK (V.C.) PYRAMID HILL (V.C.) BOORT (V.C.)	WEEKLY (4 DAYS) FORTNIGHTLY NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	WEEKLY (3 DAYS) FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	KERANG KERANG KERANG KERANG KERANG

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT KERANG

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
KERANG COHUNA	B C	KERANG COHUNA	37 DAYS 26 DAYS	26 DAYS	KERANG

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;
 additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT KYNETON

REGION BENDIGO

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
KYNETON (R.C.)	KYNETON (R.C.) TRENTHAM (V.C.) WOODEND (V.C.) GISBORNE (V.C.) ROMSEY (V.C.) LANCEFIELD (V.C.)	WEEKLY (3 DAYS) NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	WEEKLY (2 DAYS) FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	KYNETON KYNETON KYNETON KYNETON KYNETON KYNETON

COURT HEARING FACILITIES MENTION COURT KYNETON

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
KYNETON	B	KYNETON	66 DAYS	26 DAYS	KYNETON

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.

Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.

Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;

additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT MARYBOROUGH

REGION BENDIGO

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
CASTLEMAINE (R.C.) MARYBOROUGH (R.C.)	CASTLEMAINE (V.C.) MARYBOROUGH (R.C.) MALDON (V.C.) NEWSTEAD (V.C.) DUNOLLY (V.C.) AVOCA (V.C.)	WEEKLY (2 DAYS) WEEKLY (3 DAYS) NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	WEEKLY (1 DAY) WEEKLY (3 DAYS) FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	MARYBOROUGH MARYBOROUGH MARYBOROUGH MARYBOROUGH MARYBOROUGH MARYBOROUGH

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURTS: MARYBOROUGH/CASTLEMAINE

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PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
CASTLEMAINE MARYBOROUGH	B B	CASTLEMAINE MARYBOROUGH	50 DAYS 34 DAYS	26 DAYS 26 DAYS	CASTLEMAINE MARYBOROUGH

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT MILDURA

REGION BENDIGO

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
MILDURA (R.C.) REDCLIFFS (R.C.)	MILDURA (R.C.) MERBEIN (V.C.) REDCLIFFS (V.C.)	DAILY NOT SERVICED WEEKLY (1 DAY)	DAILY FORTNIGHTLY WEEKLY (1 DAY)	MILDURA MILDURA MILDURA

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT MILDURA

66

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
MILDURA REDCLIFFS	A C	MILDURA REDCLIFFS	132 DAYS	52 DAYS	MILDURA

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT NHILL

REGION BENDIGO

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
NHILL (R.C.) HOPETOUN (V.C.) WARRACKNABEAL (V.C.)	NHILL (R.C.) HOPETOUN (V.C.) WARRACKNABEAL (V.C.) DIMBOOLA (V.C.) RAINBOW (V.C.) JEPARIT (V.C.) KANIYA (V.C.)	WEEKLY (2 DAYS) FORTNIGHTLY WEEKLY (2 DAYS) NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	WEEKLY (2 DAYS) FORTNIGHTLY WEEKLY (1 DAY) FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	NHILL NHILL NHILL NHILL NHILL NHILL

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT NHILL

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
NHILL HOPETOUN WARRACKNABEAL	B C C	NHILL HOPETOUN WARRACKNABEAL	38 DAYS 6 DAYS 26 DAYS	26 DAYS	NHILL

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT OUYEN

REGION BENDIGO

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
OUYEN (R.C.) ROBINVALE (V.C.)	OUYEN (R.C.) ROBINVALE (V.C.) MANANGATANG (V.C.) UNDERBOOL (V.C.) MURRAYVILLE (V.C.) SEA LAKE (V.C.) WOOMELANG (V.C.)	WEEKLY (3 DAYS) WEEKLY (1 DAY) NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	WEEKLY (2 DAYS) WEEKLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	OUYEN OUYEN OUYEN OUYEN OUYEN OUYEN OUYEN

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURTS: OUYEN/ROBINVALE

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT CAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
OUYEN ROBINVALE	B B	OUYEN ROBINVALE	12 DAYS 25 DAYS	12 DAYS 12 DAYS	OUYEN ROBINVALE

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT ST. ARNAUDREGION BENDIGO

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
ST. ARNAUD (R.C.)	ST. ARNAUD (R.C.) WYCHEPROOF (V.C.) CHARLTON (V.C.) WEDDERBURN (V.C.) BIRCHIP (V.C.) DONALD (V.C.)	WEEKLY (2 DAYS) NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	WEEKLY (2 DAYS) FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	ST. ARNAUD ST. ARNAUD ST. ARNAUD ST. ARNAUD ST. ARNAUD ST. ARNAUD

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT ST. ARNAUD

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
ST. ARNAUD	B	ST. ARNAUD	24 DAYS	12 DAYS	ST. ARNAUD

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT STAWELL

REGION BENDIGO

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
STAWELL (R.C.)	STAWELL (R.C.) MURTOA (V.C.) RUPANYUP (V.C.) MINYIP (V.C.) HALLS GAP (V.C.) ARARAT (V.C.)	WEEKLY (4 DAYS) WEEKLY (1 DAY)	WEEKLY (3 DAYS) FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY WEEKLY (1 DAY)	STAWELL

COURT HEARING FACILITIES MENTION COURT ARARAT

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
STAWELL	C	STAWELL	49 DAYS	AS DESIGNATED BY MENTION COURT	ARARAT

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.

Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.

Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
SWAN HILL (R.C.)	SWAN HILL (R.C.) NYAH WEST (V.C.)	WEEKLY (4 DAYS) NOT SERVICED	DAILY FORTNIGHTLY	SWAN HILL

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT SWAN HILL

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
SWAN HILL	B	SWAN HILL	50 DAYS	25 DAYS	SWAN HILL

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

Moe Region

The Moe Region incorporates all municipalities located within the Gippsland and East Gippsland Area. Moe will operate as the regional headquarters.

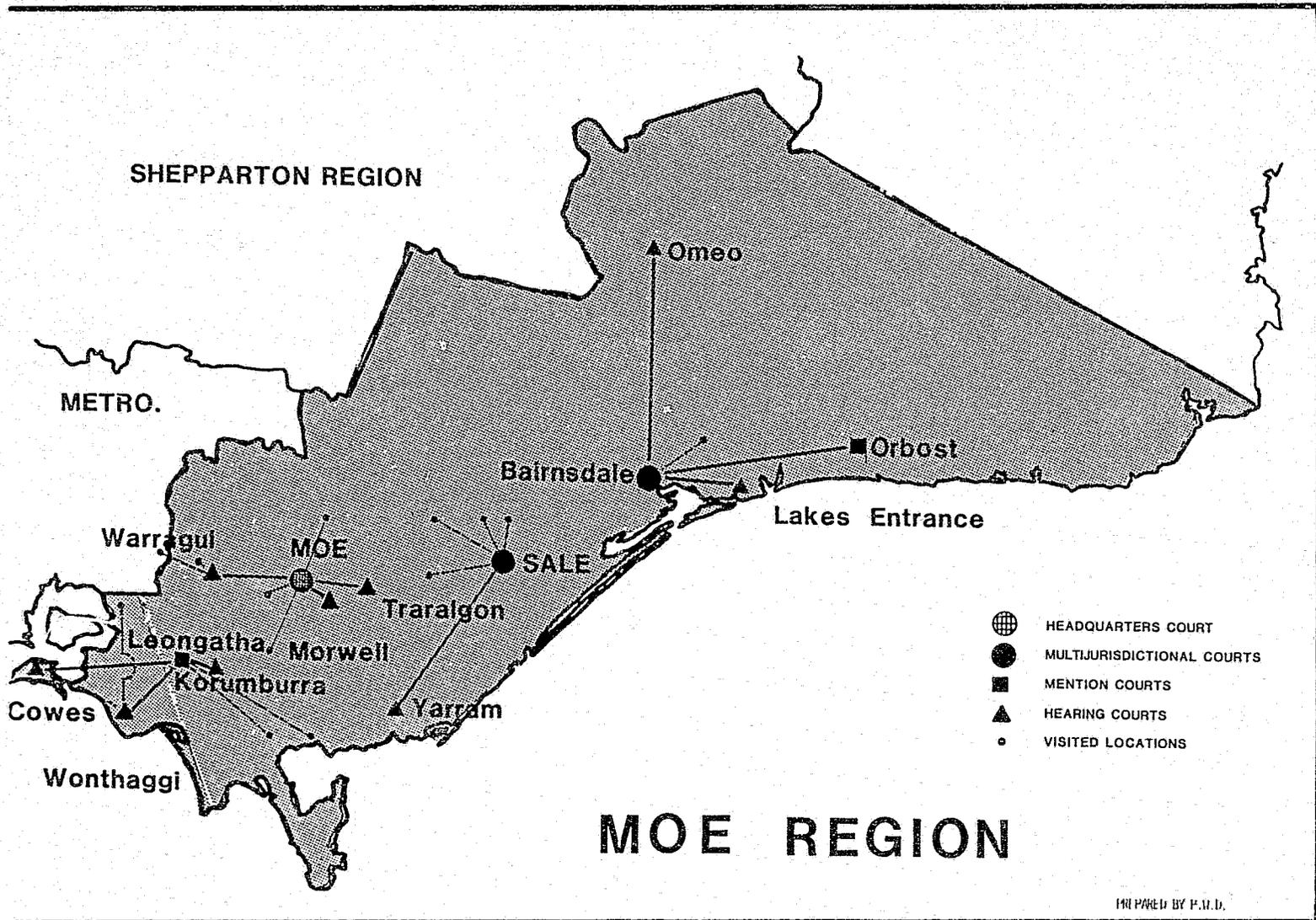
Each Court within the region has been classified according to established criteria.

It is proposed that the network of visiting services in the region be established as follows:

Moe Court to service:	Erica Trafalgar Mirboo North
Bairnsdale Court to service:	Lakes Entrance Orbost Omeo Bruthen
Korumburra Court to service:	Leongatha Foster Toora
Morwell Court:	-
Sale Court to service:	Yarram Rosedale Heyfield Maffra Stratford
Traralgon Court:	-
Warragul Court to service:	Drouin Bunyip
Wonthaggi Court to service:	Cowes Lang Lang

The towns of Foster, Toora, Lang Lang, Bruthen, Drouin, Bunyip, Erica, Trafalgar, Mirboo North, Rosedale, Heyfield, Maffra and Stratford will all derive a direct benefit from the implementation of a policy whereby the services provided by Clerks of Courts throughout the State are extended.

The map of the Region shows the location of the Regional Headquarters Court, Multi jurisdictional courts, Mention Courts, Hearing Courts, and the visiting service network.



COURT MOE

REGION MOE

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
MOE (R.C.)	MOE (R.C.) ERICA (V.C.) TRAFALGAR (V.C.) MARBOO NORTH (V.C.)	DAILY NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	DAILY MONTHLY FORTNIGHTLY MONTHLY	MOE MOE MOE MOE

COURT HEARING FACILITIES MENTION COURT MOE

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PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
MOE	A	MOE	162 DAYS	162 DAYS	MOE

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT KORUMBURRA

REGION MOE

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
KORUMBURRA (R.C.) LEONGATHA (V.C.)	KORUMBURRA (R.C.) LEONGATHA (V.C.) FOSTER (V.C.) TOORA (V.C.)	WEEKLY (4 DAYS) WEEKLY (1 DAY) NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	WEEKLY (3½ DAYS) WEEKLY (1 DAY) FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	KORUMBURRA KORUMBURRA KORUMBURRA KORUMBURRA

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT KORUMBURRA

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
KORUMBURRA LEONGATHA	B C	KORUMBURRA LEONGATHA	52 DAYS 2 DAYS	52 DAYS	KORUMBURRA

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;
 additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT BAIRNSDALE

REGION MOE

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
BAIRNSDALE (R.C.) LAKES ENTRANCE (V.C.) ORBOST (V.C.) OMEQ (V.C.)	BAIRNSDALE (R.C.) LAKES ENTRANCE (V.C.) ORBOST (V.C.) OMEQ (V.C.) BRUTHEN (V.C.)	DAILY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY AS REQUIRED NOT SERVICED	DAILY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY MONTHLY MONTHLY	BAIRNSDALE BAIRNSDALE BAIRNSDALE BAIRNSDALE BAIRNSDALE

COURT HEARING FACILITIES MENTION COURT BAIRNSDALE

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
BAIRNSDALE LAKES ENTRANCE ORBOST OMEQ	B PUBLIC HALL C C	BAIRNSDALE LAKES ENTRANCE ORBOST OMEQ	106 DAYS 3 DAYS 14 DAYS AS REQUIRED	106 DAYS 14 DAYS	BAIRNSDALE ORBOST

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT SALE

REGION MOE

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
SALE (R.C.) YARRAM (V.C.)	SALE (R.C.) YARRAM (V.C.) ROSEDALE (V.C.) HEYFIELD (V.C.) MAFFRA (V.C.) STATFORD (V.C.)	DAILY WEEKLY (3 DAYS) NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	DAILY WEEKLY (2 DAYS) FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

COURT HEARING FACILITIES MENTION COURT SALE

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
SALE YARRAM	A C	SALE YARRAM	121 DAYS 13 DAYS	122 DAYS 13 DAYS	SALE

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT MORWELL

REGION MOE

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
MORWELL (R.C.)	MORWELL (R.C.)	DAILY	DAILY	

COURT HEARING FACILITIES MENTION COURT MORWELL

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
MORWELL	B	MORWELL	21 DAYS	21 DAYS	MOE

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT TRARALGON

REGION MOE

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
TRARALGON (R.C.)	TRARALGON (R.C.)	DAILY	DAILY	

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT MOE

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PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT CAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
TRARALGON	B	TRARALGON	19 DAYS	19 DAYS	MOE

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.

Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.

Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;

additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT WARRAGUL

REGION MOE

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
WARRAGUL (R.C.)	WARRAGUL (R.C.) DROUIN (V.C.) BUNYIP (V.C.)	DAILY NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	DAILY FORTNIGHTLY MONTHLY	WARRAGUL WARRAGUL WARRAGUL

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT MOE

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
WARRAGUL	B	WARRAGUL	17 DAYS	17 DAYS	MOE

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT WONTHAGGI

REGION MOE

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
WONTHAGGI (R.C.) COMES (V.C.)	WONTHAGGI (R.C.) COMES (V.C.) LANG LANG (V.C.)	WEEKLY (3 DAYS) WEEKLY (1 DAY) NOT SERVICED	WEEKLY (3 DAYS) WEEKLY (1 DAY) FORTNIGHTLY	WONTHAGGI WONTHAGGI WONTHAGGI

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT KORUMBURRA

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
WONTHAGGI COMES	B PUBLIC HALL	WONTHAGGI COMES	13 DAYS 1 DAY	13 DAYS 1 DAY	KORUMBURRA

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;
 additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

Shepparton Region

This region incorporates all municipalities located within the Goulburn and North Eastern Area. The Regional Headquarters will be located in Shepparton.

Each Court within the region has been classified according to established criteria.

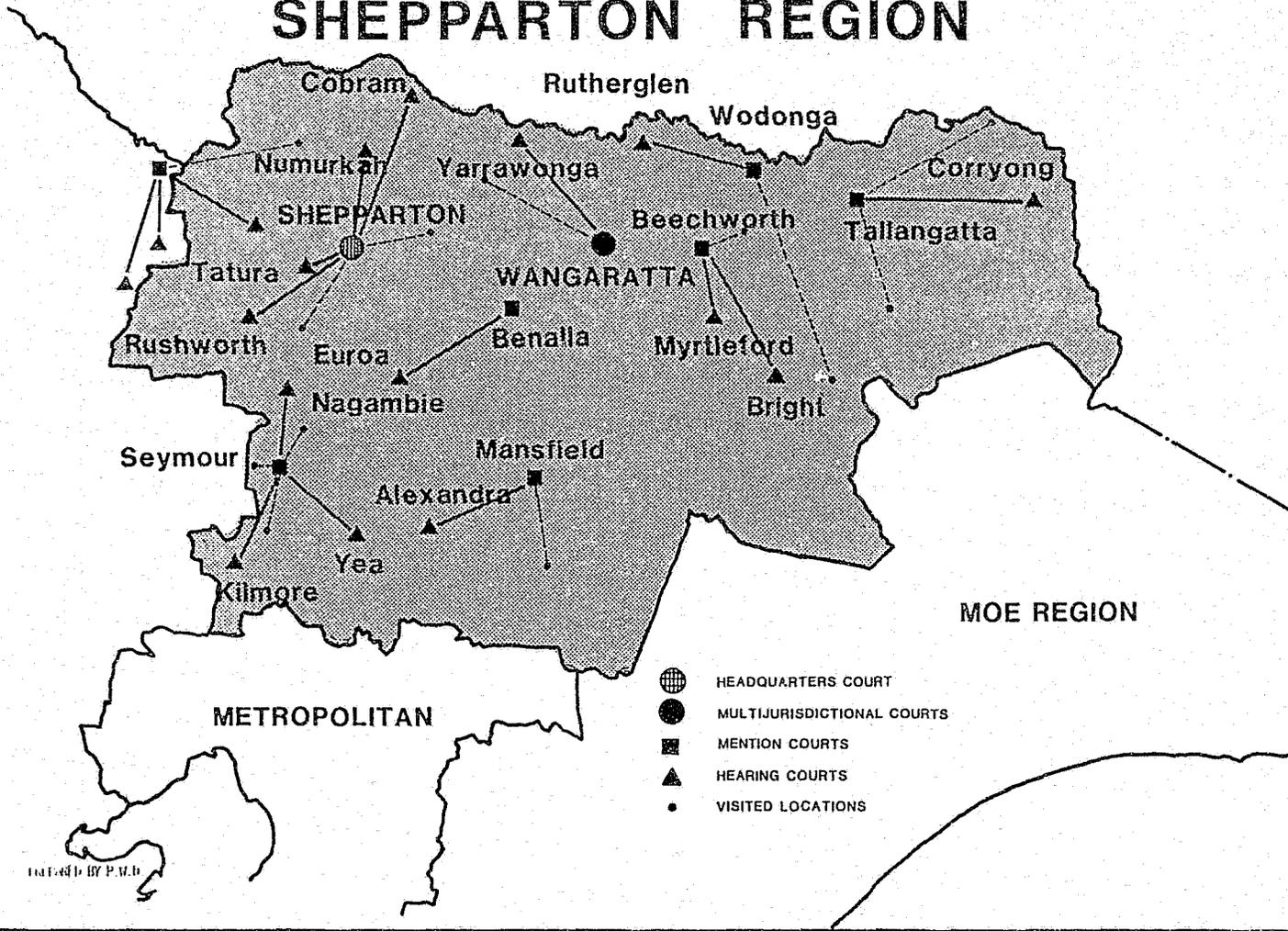
It is proposed that the network of visiting services within the Region be established as follows:-

Shepparton Court to service:	Cobram Numurkah Rushworth Tatura Dookie Murchison
Beechworth Court to service:	Myrtleford Bright Yackandandah
Benalla Court to service:	Euroa
Mansfield Court to service:	Alexandra Jamieson
Seymour Court to service:	Kilmore Yea Avenel Nagambie Puckapunyal Broadford
Tallangatta Court to service:	Corryong Mitta Mitta Walwa
Wangaratta Court to service:	Yarrowonga Tungamah
Wodonga Court to service:	Rutherglen Mt. Beauty

Towns to benefit from the extension of visiting services throughout the State are Dookie, Murchison, Yackandandah, Jamieson, Avenel, Nagambie, Broadford, Mitta Mitta, Walwa, Tungamah and Mt. Beauty. Additionally, the Army Installation of Puckapunyal, with a resident population of over 3,000 people, will have a fortnightly visit from an experienced Clerk based in Seymour.

The map of the region indicates the location of the Regional Headquarters Court, Multi jurisdictional Courts, Mention Courts, Hearing Courts, and the visiting service network.

SHEPPARTON REGION



Printed by P.M.B.

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
SHEPPARTON (R.C.) COBRAM (V.C.) NUMURKAH (V.C.) RUSHWORTH (V.C.) TATURA (V.C.)	SHEPPARTON (R.C.) COBRAM (V.C.) NUMURKAH (V.C.) RUSHWORTH (V.C.) TATURA (V.C.) DOOKIE (V.C.) MURGHISON (V.C.)	DAILY WEEKLY (1 DAY) WEEKLY (2 DAYS) WEEKLY FORTNIGHTLY NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	DAILY WEEKLY (1 DAY) WEEKLY (1 DAY) WEEKLY (1 DAY) FORTNIGHTLY MONTHLY MONTHLY	SHEPPARTON SHEPPARTON SHEPPARTON SHEPPARTON SHEPPARTON SHEPPARTON

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT SHEPPARTON

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
SHEPPARTON COBRAM NUMURKAH RUSHWORTH TATURA	A C C C C	SHEPPARTON COBRAM NUMURKAH RUSHWORTH TATURA	164 DAYS 24 DAYS 13 DAYS 13 DAYS 12 DAYS	100 DAYS	SHEPPARTON

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;
 additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT BEECHWORTH

REGION SHEPPARTON

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
BEECHWORTH (R.C.) MYRTLEFORD (V.C.) BRIGHT (V.C.)	BEECHWORTH (R.C.) MYRTLEFORD (V.C.) BRIGHT (V.C.) YACKANDANDAH (V.C.)	WEEKLY (2½ DAYS) WEEKLY FORTNIGHTLY NOT SERVICED	WEEKLY (2 DAYS) WEEKLY (1 DAY) FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	BEECHWORTH

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT BEECHWORTH

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
BEECHWORTH MYRTLEFORD BRIGHT	B C C	BEECHWORTH MYRTLEFORD BRIGHT	12 DAYS 20 DAYS 16 DAYS	6 DAYS	BEECHWORTH

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.

Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.

Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;

additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT BENALLA

REGION SHEPPARTON

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
BENALLA (R.C.) EUROA (V.C.)	BENALLA (R.C.) EUROA (V.C.)	DAILY WEEKLY (1 DAY)	DAILY FORTNIGHTLY	BENALLA BENALLA

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT BENALLA

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
BENALLA EUROA	B C	BENALLA EUROA	74 DAYS 13 DAYS	49 DAYS	BENALLA

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.

Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.

Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;

additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT MANSFIELD

REGION SHEPPARTON

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
MANSFIELD (R.C.) ALEXANDRA (V.C.)	MANSFIELD (R.C.) ALEXANDRA (V.C.) JAMIESON (V.C.)	WEEKLY (3 DAYS) WEEKLY	WEEKLY (2 DAYS) WEEKLY	MANSFIELD

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT MANSFIELD.

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
MANSFIELD ALEXANDRA	B C	MANSFIELD ALEXANDRA	36 DAYS 24 DAYS	26 DAYS	MANSFIELD

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT SEYMOUR

REGION SHEPPARTON

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
SEYMOUR (R.C.) KILMORE (R.C.) YEA (V.C.)	SEYMOUR (R.C.) KILMORE (R.C.) YEA (V.C.) PUCKAPUNYAL (V.C.) AVENEL (V.C.) NAGAMBIE (V.C.) BROADFORD (V.C.)	DAILY WEEKLY (2 DAYS) FORTNIGHTLY NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	DAILY WEEKLY (2 DAYS) FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY MONTHLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	SEYMOUR SEYMOUR SEYMOUR SEYMOUR SEYMOUR SEYMOUR SEYMOUR

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT: SEYMOUR

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PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
SEYMOUR KILMORE YEA	B C C	SEYMOUR KILMORE YEA	97 DAYS 49 DAYS 13 DAYS	50 DAYS 26 DAYS	SEYMOUR

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT TALLANGATTA

REGION SHEPPARTON

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
TALLANGATTA Corryong	TALLANGATTA Corryong MITTA MITTA WALWA	WEEKLY (3½ DAYS) FORTNIGHTLY NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	WEEKLY (3 DAYS) FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	TALLANGATTA

COURT HEARING FACILITIES MENTION COURT TALLANGATTA

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
TALLANGATTA Corryong	B C	TALLANGATTA Corryong	13 DAYS 13 DAYS	6 DAYS	TALLANGATTA

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.

Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.

Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;

additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT WANGARATTA

REGION SHEPPARTON

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
WANGARATTA (R.C.) YARRAWONGA (V.C.)	WANGARATTA (R.C.) YARRAWONGA (V.C.) TUNGAMAH (V.C.)	DAILY FORTNIGHTLY NOT SERVICED	DAILY FORTNIGHTLY	WANGARATTA

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT WANGARATTA

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
WANGARATTA YARRAWONGA	A C	WANGARATTA YARRAWONGA	75 DAYS 13 DAYS	26 DAYS	WANGARATTA

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;
 additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT WODONGA

REGION SHEPPARTON

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
WODONGA (R.C.) RUTHERGLEN (V.C.)	WODONGA (R.C.) RUTHERGLEN (V.C.) MT. BEAUTY	DAILY WEEKLY (1 DAY) NOT SERVICED	DAILY WEEKLY (1 DAY) FOTNIGHTLY	WODONGA

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT WODONGA

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
WODONGA RUTHERGLEN	B C	WODONGA RUTHERGLEN	62 DAYS	26 DAYS	WODONGA

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;
 additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

Geelong Region

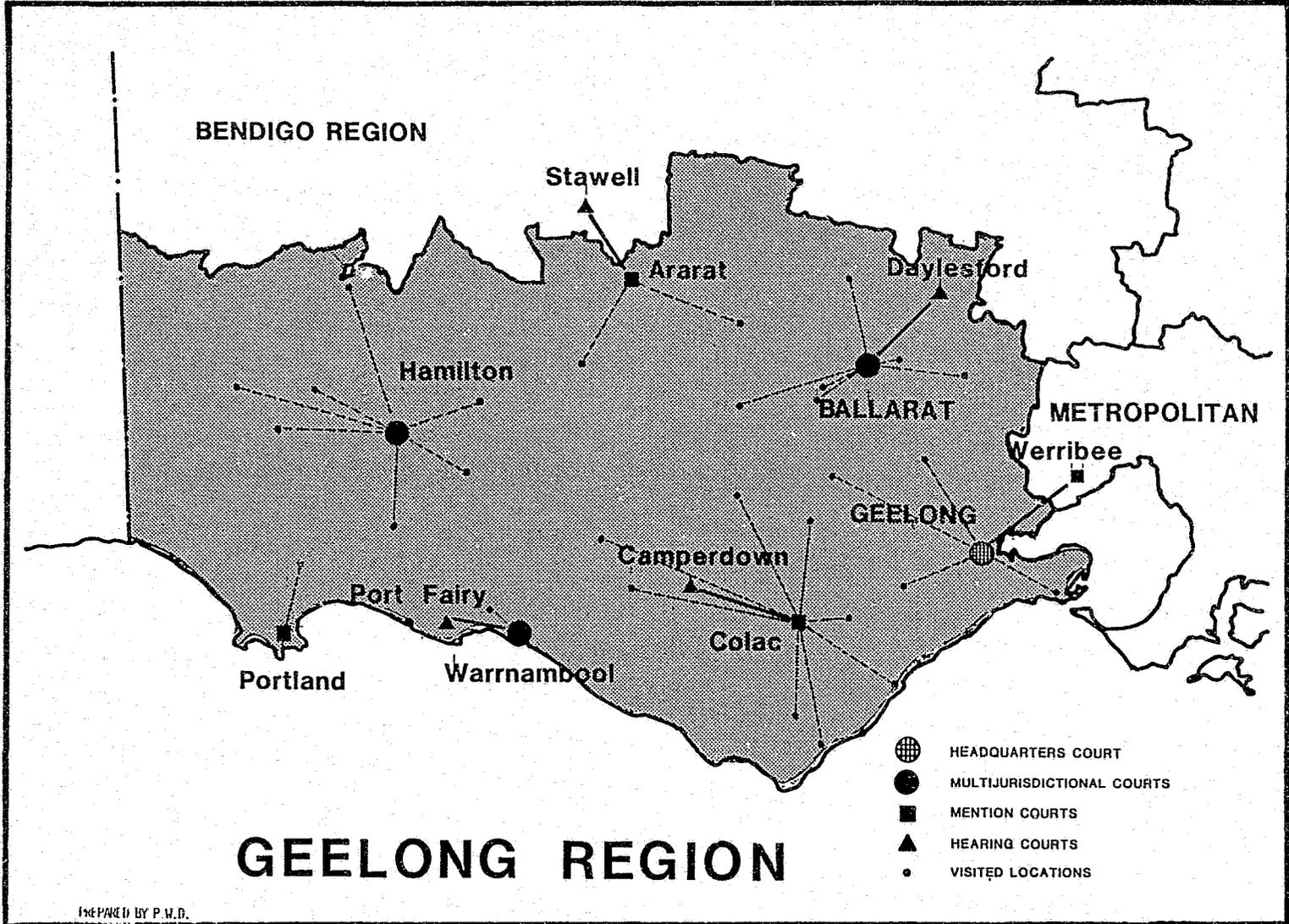
The Geelong Region is comprised of all municipalities found within the Central Highlands/Barwon/South Western Area. It is proposed that the Regional Headquarters Court be located at Geelong.

Each Court within this region has been classified according to establish criteria.

The network of visiting services within the region will be provided as follows:-

Geelong Court to service:	Werribee Meredith Rokewood Winchelsea Queenscliff
Ararat Court to service:	Willaura Beaufort
Ballarat Court to service:	Daylesford Ballan Bungaree Creswick Clunes Skipton Scarsdale Smythesdale
Colac Court to service:	Camperdown Birregurra Lorne Apollo Bay Beech Forest Terang Mortlake Lismore Cressy
Hamilton Court to service:	Balmoral Coleraine Casterton Penshurst Macarthur Dunkeld
Portland Court to service:	Heywood
Warrnambool Court to service:	Port Fairy Koroit

Twenty nine towns will benefit from the policy of extending services offered by Clerks of Courts throughout the State. The map of this region indicates the location of regional headquarters Courts, multi jurisdictional Courts, Mention Courts, hearing Courts and the visiting service network.



PREPARED BY P.M.D.

COURT GEELONGREGION GEELONG

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
GEELONG (R.C.) WERRIBEE (R.C.)	GEELONG (R.C.) WERRIBEE (R.C.) MEREDITH (V.C.) ROKEWOOD (V.C.) WINCHELSEA (V.C.) QUEENSLIFF (V.C.)	DAILY DAILY NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	DAILY DAILY MONTHLY MONTHLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	GEELONG WERRIBEE GEELONG GEELONG GEELONG

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT GEELONG/WERRIBEE

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
GEELONG WERRIBEE	A A	GEELONG WERRIBEE	249 DAYS 98 DAYS	200 DAYS 26 DAYS	GEELONG WERRIBEE

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;
 additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT ARARAT

REGION GEELONG

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
ARARAT (R.C.)	ARARAT (R.C.) WILLAURA (V.C.) BEAUFORT (V.C.)	WEEKLY (4 DAYS) NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	WEEKLY (4 DAYS) FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	ARARAT ARARAT ARARAT

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT ARARAT

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PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
ARARAT	B	ARARAT	49 DAYS	26 DAYS	ARARAT

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT BALLARAT

REGION GEELONG

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
BALLARAT (R.C.) DAYLESFORD (V.C.)	BALLARAT (R.C.) DAYLESFORD (V.C.)- SMYTHESDALE (V.C.) SMYTHESDALE (V.C.) BALLAN (V.C.) BUNGAREE (V.C.) CRESWICK (V.C.) CLUNES (V.C.) SKIPTON (V.C.) SCARSDALE (V.C.)	DAILY WEEKLY (2 DAYS) NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	DAILY WEEKLY (1 DAY) MONTHLY MONTHLY MONTHLY MONTHLY MONTHLY MONTHLY MONTHLY	BALLARAT BALLARAT BALLARAT BALLARAT BALLARAT BALLARAT BALLARAT BALLARAT BALLARAT BALLARAT

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT BALLARAT

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
BALLARAT DAYLESFORD	A C	BALLARAT DAYLESFORD	233 DAYS 21 DAYS	150 DAYS 12 DAYS	BALLARAT

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;
 additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT COLAC

REGION GEELONG

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

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PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
COLAC (R.C.) CAMPERDOWN (V.C.)	COLAC (R.C.) CAMPERDOWN (V.C.) BIRREGURRA (V.C.) LORNE (V.C.) APOLLO BAY (V.C.) BEECH FOREST (V.C.) TERANG (V.C.) MORTLAKE (V.C.) LISMORE (V.C.) CRESSY (V.C.)	DAILY WEEKLY (2 DAYS) NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	DAILY WEEKLY (1 DAY) FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	COLAC COLAC COLAC COLAC COLAC COLAC COLAC COLAC COLAC COLAC

COURT HEARING FACILITIES MENTION COURT COLAC

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PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
COLAC CAMPERDOWN	B C	COLAC CAMPERDOWN	62 DAYS 34 DAYS	26 DAYS 12 DAYS	COLAC

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT HAMILTON

REGION GEELONG

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
HAMILTON (R.C.)	HAMILTON (R.C.) BALMORAL (V.C.) COLERAINE (V.C.) CASTERTON (V.C.) PENSHURST (V.C.) MACARTHUR (V.C.) DUNKELD (V.C.)	DAILY NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED NOT SERVICED	DAILY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	HAMILTON HAMILTON HAMILTON HAMILTON HAMILTON HAMILTON HAMILTON

COURT HEARING FACILITIES MENTION COURT HAMILTON

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
HAMILTON	A	HAMILTON	49 DAYS	26 DAYS	HAMILTON

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT PORTLANDREGION GEELONG

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
PORTLAND (R.C.)	PORTLAND (R.C.) HEYWOOD (V.C.)	DAILY NOT SERVICED	DAILY FORTNIGHTLY	PORTLAND PORTLAND

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT PORTLAND

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
PORTLAND	B	PORTLAND	63 DAYS	26 DAYS	PORTLAND

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates;
 additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

COURT WARRNAMBOOL

REGION GEELONG

VISITING SERVICES

(R.C. - RESIDENT CLERK V.C. = VISITING CLERK)

PRESENT LOCATIONS SERVICED BY CLERKS OF COURTS	PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SERVICES OF CLERKS OF COURTS	PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	PROPOSED FREQUENCY OF SERVICES	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PROVISION OF VISITING SERVICES
WARRNAMBOOL (R.C.) PORT FAIRY (V.C.)	WARRNAMBOOL (R.C.) PORT FAIRY (V.C.) KOROIT (V.C.)	DAILY WEEKLY NOT SERVICED	DAILY FORTNIGHTLY FORTNIGHTLY	WARRNAMBOOL WARRNAMBOOL WARRNAMBOOL

COURT HEARING FACILITIES

MENTION COURT WARRNAMBOOL

PRESENT COURT HEARING FACILITIES	CATEGORY OF COURT *	PROPOSED COURT HEARING FACILITIES	PRESENT GAZETTED HEARING DAYS	PROPOSED MINIMUM HEARING DAYS **	PROPOSED MENTION COURTS
WARRNAMBOOL PORT FAIRY	A C	WARRNAMBOOL PORT FAIRY	121 DAYS 12 DAYS	52 DAYS 12 DAYS	WARRNAMBOOL

* Category A. Courts to be developed as a high priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category B. Courts to be developed as a moderate priority to meet minimum functional standards.
 Category C. Courts to be retained as hearing facilities, concurrent community use to be negotiated.

**Hearing days to be designated mention dates; additional hearing dates to be allocated according to demand.

5. QUESTIONS

To assist the consultation process this section invites responses to the following questions. Organisations or individuals with other perspectives may see different or additional issues which should be canvassed before final decisions are made or plans proceed to implementation.

Regional Structure

- Question 1: Are the proposed regional boundaries the most appropriate?
- Question 2: Are the proposed regional Headquarters Courts in the most appropriate locations?

Utilisation of Clerks of Courts

- Question 3: Assuming first that additional resources are not made available to the Courts and second that computerisation of Courts Administration will result in some capacity to redeploy Clerks to new activities, what priorities should be given to the utilization of Clerks? For example, should priority be given to Court work, including additional quasi-judicial functions such as the hearing of applications pursuant to the Judgement Debt Recovery Act; for over-the-counter services (including the extension of the Visiting Clerk Service) or should priorities be elsewhere and, if so, where?
- Question 4: Should Clerks of Courts provide access to a wider range of Government Services?

Role of the Courts

- Question 5: Should an attempt be made to make Courts more adaptable to community needs for accessible dispute resolution? Should the Government provide new dispute resolution mechanisms and not attempt to adapt the Courts?

- Question 6: Should there be informal procedures in Magistrates' Courts?
- Question 7: Is legal representation (with or without costs) appropriate in all instances?
- Question 8: What type of support services should be provided at Courts for members of the public attending Court (e.g. child minding facilities, counselling)?
- Question 9: Should public workshops and courses be conducted by Clerks of Courts to educate members of the public (particularly those who are to appear in Court) on Court procedures? Should more literature be made available?

Courts and Court Service Locations

- Question 10: Are the proposals for Court location appropriate and what changes should be made?
- Question 11: How should priorities be established for the upgrading of existing facilities and the construction of new Courts?
- Question 12: Are the minimum standards proposed for Court House design appropriate; should they be modified? Are the proposed networks for visiting Clerks' services appropriate and what modifications could you suggest?
- Question 13: What provision should be made for persons who are unable to attend Court at the present hearing times due to employment or other commitments?
- Question 14: Should the hours that Clerks of Courts are available be staggered to ensure maximum accessibility?
- Question 15: What alternative community use can Court Houses be put to while remaining available for Court hearings?

Poor Box

- Question 16: Should the Courts be involved in the provision of emergency relief via the Poor Box? Except for funds used for emergency relief should Poor Box funds be returned to the Government for distribution to the community or be distributed from the Courts through local welfare agencies?
- Question 17: Should the Fund continue to be called the "Poor Box"?
- Question 18: How can the confidentiality of applicants be assured?

General

- Question 19: Are central Court complexes which provide an efficient service preferable to scattered, poorly resourced Court Houses?
- Question 20: Should Court Houses be open outside normal business hours?
- Question 21: Should the Melbourne Magistrates' Court be developed as a large central complex only or alternatively as a smaller Court complex with another complex built at either Collingwood or Clifton Hill?

Comments on any other matter raised in the report or relation to the Court system would be welcomed.

THE REGIONAL STRUCTURE**CENTRAL SUBURBS REGION**

MELBOURNE (Headquarters)
Prahran
South Melbourne
Fitzroy
Carlton
Collingwood
Port Melbourne
St. Kilda

NORTHERN AND EASTERN SUBURBS REGION

HEIDELBERG (Headquarters)
Hawthorn (Special Fixtures)
Camberwell
Box Hill
Ringwood
Lilydale
Preston
Healesville
Warburton
Ferntree Gully
Whittlesea
Northcote
Eltham

WESTERN SUBURBS REGION

BROADMEADOWS (Headquarters)
Brunswick
Sunshine
Melton
Werribee
Williamstown
Moonee Ponds
Bacchus Marsh
Footscray
Coburg
Sunbury

SOUTHERN SUBURBS REGION

DANDENONG (Headquarters)
Frankston
Dromana
Springvale
Mordialloc
Cheltenham
Sandringham

Mornington
Sorrento
Hastings
Berwick
Pakenham
Cranbourne
Oakleigh
Elsternwick
Brighton
Chelsea

BENDIGO REGION

BENDIGO (Headquarters)

Mildura
Swan Hill
Horsham
Stawell
Nhill
Ouyen
Kerang
Robinvale
Red Cliffs
Warracknabeal
Hopetoun
Echuca
Rochester
Castlemaine
Kyneton
Maryborough
Heathcote
Eaglehawk
St. Arnaud

GEELONG REGION

GEELONG (Headquarters)

Ballarat
Daylesford
Colac
Warrnambool
Hamilton
Portland
Camperdown
Port Fairy

SHEPPARTON REGION

SHEPPARTON (Headquarters)

Wangaratta
Wodonga
Tallangatta

Seymour
Benalla
Beechworth
Yarrawonga
Rutherglen
Myrtleford
Bright
Corryong
Kilmore
Alexandra
Yea
Nathalia
Numurkah
Cobram
Kyabram
Tatura
Rushworth
Euroa
Mansfield

MOE REGION

MOE (Headquarters)
Morwell
Korumburra
Warragul
Bairnsdale
Sale
Orbost
Traralgon
Yarram
Leongatha
Omeo
Lakes Entrance
Wonthaggi
Cowes

**TASKS PERFORMED BY
CLERKS OF COURTS**

1. INFORMATION SERVICES PROVIDED BY CLERKS OF COURTS

Provide information to the Public, Solicitors, Police, Councils and Statutory Bodies on a range of matters including:

- Maintenance
- Family Law
- Alternative Procedure
- Judgment Debt Recovery
- Liquor Control Applications for particular occasions, Permits and Booth Licences (fee applicable)
- Bail Act applications for Variation of Bail

Provide general legal information on various other Acts, Rules and procedures, including explanation interpretation and certification of documents and referrals to other agencies.

Supreme Court

Provide general information concerning the operation of the Supreme Court Act and Rules, Pre-trial Conferences.

County Court

Provide information on County Court Act, Rules and Case Law. Civil Matters. All aspects of procedure and appeals in criminal matters. Adoptions Act and Rules. Taxation of Costs. Pre-Trial Conferences. Summonses for Oral Examination. De bene esse examinations.

Children's Court

Provide information on relevant Acts and Rules and applications. Prosecutions.

Coroner's Court

Provide information regarding deaths which occur from natural causes as well as those where inquests are conducted.

Magistrates' Courts

Provide information on Magistrates' Courts Act and Rules, including procedures. Civil matters. Various Acts and Rules for criminal matters. Licences.

Provide information to other Agencies.

- Probation Officers
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Salvation Army
- Other Court Advisory Bodies

Public Relations.

- Market the services provided.
- Act as general referral agency.

2. SERVICES REQUIRING THE ATTENDANCE OF A CLERK OF COURTS

- Swear affidavits and witness declarations.
- Certify copy documents.
- Enforce family law orders, including summons for non-compliance, garnishee application, sequestration of property and summons for contempt of Court. Prepare applications for injunctions and accompanying documentation.
- Arrange legal representation where necessary. Act as arbitrator if required. Liaise with parties and the legal profession as to the cases.
- Prepare documentation in matters concerning guardianship and custody, access, maintenance, injunctions, sole occupancy of dwelling.
- Advise on Maintenance Act and Rules. Issue and/or prepare matters concerning preliminary expenses and maintenance for child born out of wedlock and enforcement.
- Act as authorised celebrant in weddings.

- Provide information on Marriage Act and Rules. Assist public in completion of notice of intention. Collect fees. Perform weddings. Document to register (can perform out of office hours). Act as prescribed authority. Shorten time for marriage.
- Prepare applications for restoration of motor vehicle licence.
- Prepare, issue and schedule Marriage of Minors applications pursuant to the Marriage Act.
- Prepare and schedule appeals under Firearms Act against Chief Commissioner's decision to refuse to grant a permit.
- Disburse Poor Box money to people in need according to guidelines set by S.M. and pursuant to his authorization.
- Prepare Small Estates applications including Grants of Probate or Letters of Administration. Prepare Survivorship applications.
- Conduct oral examinations (debtors).
- Make determinations in applications for instalment orders under the Judgment Debt Recovery Act.
- Prepare and issue various applications in the Children's Court jurisdiction (e.g. irreconcilable differences).
- Prepare Bail applications or recognisances.
- Arrange with the Court for time to pay fines where required. (Stays)

Additional duties.

Referrals

- Refer members of the public to other agencies within the community after discussing problems, and outline the various courses of action.
- Arrange interviews with appropriate agencies or persons who may assist a "client" in particular need.

Court-related

- Negotiate pre-Court settlement in civil matters.
- Arrange legal representation (Duty Solicitor Scheme).
- Discuss domestic options. Refer to refuges, marriage guidance.
- Arrange financial advice (summons for oral examination).

Poor Box Related

- Advise as to available pensions, benefits. (Social Security).
- Arrange financial advice.
- Negotiate repayment arrangements with creditors in lieu of Poor Box payments, e.g. S.E.C.

Miscellaneous

- Assist in preparation of Deed Poll applications.
- Participate in community activities as follows:-
 - Schools - Mock Courts, talks seminars
 - Service Clubs - Talks, seminars.
 - Youth Groups - Talks, seminars.
 - Committees - Either on a Commonwealth, State or local Government level as member.

3. FUNCTIONS IN THE CO-ORDINATION OF COURT HEARINGS PERFORMED BY CLERKS OF COURTS

All Courts

- Liaise with Police, Solicitors and parties for listing purposes.
- Arrange service of applications and summonses - Family Law/Magistrates' Court, Children's Court.

2.5

- Liaise with probation officers, assessment centres for reports and placements - Criminal/Magistrates' Court, Children's Court.

4. ACCOUNTING AND CLERICAL FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY CLERKS OF COURTS

Collections/Disbursement of Funds

Accounting Trust

Receipt monies for transmission to the complainant or his solicitor:

- Maintenance
- Fraud Instalments
- Civil Debts
- Costs

Infant Investments

Invest monies in State Bank Investment Account until infant attains requisite age to claim money.

Jury Fees

Collect and disburse in Supreme Court and County Court.

Revenue

Receipt monies for transmission to Revenue or other Government Instrumentalities.

- Fines
- Licences
- Court costs

Poor Box

Receipt monies for Donations to Court Poor Box.

Civil Matters

Interstate Civil Judgments Registration

- Enforcement
- Notification of originating Court
- Preparation and issue of warrants of distress
- Certification of Certificates of Judgment for registration.

Small Claims

Register orders. Issue Warrant of Distress.

Residential Tenancies Orders

Register orders. Warrants of Distress.

Summons for Oral Examination

- Issue and schedule.
- Advise originating Court and complainant's solicitor of result.
- Refer to S.M. for penalty if no appearance of debtor.
- Register intra State judgments.

Default/Special Summons

- Issue Process.
- Make default order.
- Issue warrants (calculate interest).

Imprisonment of Fraudulent Debtors Act

- Issue Summons.

Judgment Debt Recovery Act

- Advise Judgment Debtor/Creditor of result of applications.
- Enforce

Service

Check service of documents (on all M.C. jurisdiction).

Criminal MattersEnforcement

- Warrant of Commitment
- Licence Cancellation Notice
- Penalty Notices
- Registration of Outstanding Penalties

TrafficAlternative Procedure

- List
- Enforce

Licences

Issue and renew:

- Private Agents
- Second Hand Dealers
- Marine Stores and Old Metals
- Hawkers and Pedlers
- Auctioneers

Registers

Maintain Court records.

County CourtRegistries

- Issue process
- Collect fees
- List
- Co-ordinate with County Court Melbourne
- Enter default judgments
- Issue Warrants of Execution
- Taxation of Costs (sometimes contested)
- Check Bailiff's books and process on hand.

Criminal Matters

- List
- Notify appellants, respondents
- Arrange security staff
- Process appeals

Registers

Maintain Court records.

Adoptions

- Issue order made
- Enter in register
- Advise Community Welfare Services, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Prothonotary.

OtherReturns

- Collect statistics regarding all aspects of Court services and judicial hearings.

Current Law

- Amend Victorian Acts and Statutory Rules
- Index Law Reports.

COURT REGION: BENDIGO

STATE REGION: WIMMERA

Shire	Population 1983	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	No. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courtroom Utilisation %
ARAPILES	1,820	NATIMUK	P.S.						
BIRCHIP	1,420	BIRCHIP	P.S.	1					
DIMBOOLA	4,770	DIMBOOLA	P.S.	1					
DONALD	2,630	RAINBOW DONALD JEPARIT	P.S. P.S. P.S.	2 2 1					
DUNMUNKLE	3,150	MORTOA MINYIP	P.S. P.S.	1 1					
KANIVA	1,890	KANIVA	P.S.	1					
KARKAROO	3,180	HOPETOUN	P.S.	2	HOPETOUN	24	36	FAIR	3.6%
KOLITREE	4,090	EDENHOPE	P.S.	2					
LOWAN	3,300	NHILL	P.S.	2	NHILL	100	560	POOR	19.3%
STAWELL	8,690	STAWELL	P.S.	4	STAWELL	200	560	FAIR	18.9%
WARRACKNABEAL	4,030	WARRACKNABEAL	P.S.	3	WARRACKNABEAL	100	360	FAIR	10%
WIMMERA	15,550	HORSHAM	P.S.	4	HORSHAM	249	1,200	GOOD	16%

COURT REGION: BENDIGO

STATE REGION: LODDON-CAMPASPE

Shire	Population 1983	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	No. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courtroom Utilisation %
MARONG	10,850	ADJACENT TO BENDIGO							
MARYBOROUGH	8,270	MARYBOROUGH	P.S.	3	MARYBOROUGH	150	280	POOR	16%
METCALFE	2,320	METCALFE							
NEWHAM & WOODEND	3,810	WOODEND	P.S.	3					
NEWSTEAD	2,200	NEWSTEAD	P.S.						
PYALONG	560	PYALONG	P.S.						
ROCHESTER	7,700	ROCHESTER	P.S.	2	ROCHESTER	40	80	POOR	9%
ROMSEY	5,170	ROMSEY LANCEFIELD	P.S. P.S.	2					
STRATHFIELD OSAYE	13,500	ADJACENT TO BENDIGO							
TULLAROOP	1,780	CARISBROOK							

COURT REGION: BENDIGO

STATE REGION: LODDON-CAMPASPE

Shire	Population 33	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	No. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courtroom Utilisation %
BENDIGO	32,890	BENDIGO	P.S.	17	BENDIGO	249	2,400	FAIR	57%
BET BET	1,830	TARNAGULLA DUNOLLY	P.S. P.S.	1					
CASTLEMAINE	6,810	CASTLEMAINE	P.S.	4	CASTLEMAINE	100	280	FAIR	16%
CHARLTON	2,120	CHARLTON	P.S.	2					
COHUNA	4,750	COHUNA	P.S.	2	COHUNA	32	800	POOR	12%
EAGLEHAWK	8,030	EAGLEHAWK	P.S.		EAGLEHAWK	50	80	POOR	6%
EAST LODDON	1,490	SERPENTINE							
ECHUCA	8,280	ECHUCA	P.S.	3	ECHUCA	249	1,000	POOR	34%
GISBORNE	6,960	GISBORNE	P.S.	5					
GORDON	2,960	BOORT PYRAMID HILL	P.S. P.S.	1 1					
HUNTLY	3,320	ELMORE	P.S.	1					
KARA KARA	3,930	ST. ARNAUD	P.S.	2	ST. ARNAUD	100	120	FAIR	12%
KORONG	3,070	INGLEWOOD WEDDERBURN	P.S. P.S.	2 1					
KYNETON	7,270	KYNETON TRENTHAM	P.S. P.S.	4	kyneton	249	460	POOR	27%

COURT REGION: BENDIGO

STATE REGION: LODDON-CAMPASPE

Shire	Population 1983	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	No. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courtroom Utilisation %
MCIVOR	2,300	HEATHCOTE	P.S.	3	HEATHCOTE	50	12	POOR	5%
MALDON	2,420	MALDON	P.S.	4					

COURT REGION: BENDIGO

STATE REGION: NORTHERN MALLEE

Shire	Population 1983	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	No. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courtroom Utilisation %
KERANG (C)	4,310	KERANG	P.S.	2	KERANG	200	1,200	FAIR	15%
KERANG (S)	4,540	QUAMBATOOK	P.S.						
MILDURA	36,280	MILDURA REDCLIFFS MIRBEIN	P.S. P.S. P.S.	13 1	MILDURA REDCLIFFS	249 50	520	POOR	27%
SWAN HILL	21,700	SWAN HILL ROBINVALE MANANGSTATANG	P.S. P.S. P.S.	4 2 1	SWAN HILL ROBINVALE	249 50	1,120 50	FAIR	14%
WALPEUP	3,690	OUYEN UNDERBOOL MURRAYVILLE	P.S. P.S. P.S.	2	ouyen	150	120	POOR	5%
WYCHEPROOF	3,800	WYCHEPROOF SEA LAKE	P.S. P.S.	2 2					

BENDIGO REGION

WIMMERA/NORTHERN MALLEE/LODDON-CAMPASPE

COURT HOUSE LOCATION	OVERALL BUILDING CONDITION STATUS	ADEQUACY OF PRESENT COURT ACCOMMODATION				SUITABILITY OF COURT BUILDING FOR:		BUILDING FLEXIBILITY RATING	SITE POTENTIAL FOR:		DOES COURT HOUSE MEET MINIMUM STANDARDS?
		MAGISTRATES	STAFF	PUBLIC		TANDEM SITTING OF MAGISTRATES	USE BY HIGHER JURISDICTIONS		EXPANSION	DEVELOPMENT	
				IN COURT	OUT OF COURT						
<u>WIMMERA REGION</u>											
HOPETOUN	ADEQUATE	GOOD	ADEQUATE	GOOD	GOOD	NO	NO	LOW	GOOD	GOOD	NO (RP)
HORSHAM	GOOD	GOOD	ADEQUATE	GOOD	ADEQUATE	YES	YES	LOW	ADEQUATE	FAIR	YES
MHILL	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	NO	NO	LOW	GOOD	FAIR	NO (LP)
STAWELL	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	NO	NO	LOW	GOOD	FAIR	NO (LP)
*WARRACKNABEAL	GOOD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	GOOD	ADEQUATE	NO	NO	FAIR	ADEQUATE	GOOD	NO (LP)
<u>NORTHERN MALLEE</u>											
KERANG	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	NO	NO	LOW	GOOD	FAIR	NO (RP)
MILDURA	ADEQUATE	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	NO	YES	LOW	ADEQUATE	LOW	NO (RP)
Ouyen	ADEQUATE	POOR	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	GOOD	GOOD	NO (LP)
RED CLIFFS	ADEQUATE	POOR	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	GOOD	GOOD	NO (RP)
ROBINVALE	GOOD	GOOD	ADEQUATE	GOOD	ADEQUATE	YES	NO	LOW	GOOD	GOOD	NO (RP)
SHAW HILL	GOOD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	NO	NO	FAIR	GOOD	GOOD	NO (RP)
<u>LODDON-CAMPASPE</u>											
BENDIGO	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	YES	YES	LOW	LOW	LOW	YES
*CASTLEMARINE	GOOD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	NO	YES	LOW	NIL	LOW	
COOLUNA	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	GOOD	NO	NO	LOW	ADEQUATE	FAIR	NO (LP)
*EAGLEHAWK	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	ADEQUATE	FAIR	NO (LP)
*EGLUCA	POOR	POOR	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	NIL	FAIR	NO
HEATHCOTE	ADEQUATE	POOR	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	NIL	GOOD	NO
*KINNETON	GOOD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	GOOD	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	NIL	FAIR	NO
*MARYBOROUGH	GOOD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	YES	LOW	NIL	LOW	NO
*ROCHESTER	ADEQUATE	POOR	POOR	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	NIL	GOOD	NO
*ST. ARNAUD	GOOD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	NO	NO	LOW	ADEQUATE	GOOD	NO (LP)
ELMORE	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	NO	NO	LOW	LOW	POOR	NO (LP)
(currently non operational).											
*Historically Classified.											

COURT REGION: MOE

STATE REGION: CENTRAL GIPPSLAND

Shire	Population 1983	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	No. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courtroom Utilisation %
ALBERTON	6,160	YARRAM	P.S.	2	YARRAM	150	612	FAIR	8%
BULN BULN	(,())	DRUIN	P.S.	1					
KORUMBURRA	7,010	KORUMBURRA	P.S.	3	KORUMBURRA	150	188	GOOD	7%
MIRBOO	2,330	MIRBOO NORTH	P.S.	3					
MOE (C)	18,110	MOE	P.S.	4	MOE	249	1,920	FAIR	19%
MORWELL	27,510	MORWELL	P.S.	15	MORWELL	249	2,160	FAIR	29%
NARRACAN	11,310	TRAFALGAR ERICA	P.S. P.S.	3					
ROSEDALE	6,920	ROSEDALE	P.S.	1					
SOUTH GIPPS- LAND	6,260	FOSTER TOORA	P.S. P.S.	1 3					
TRARALGON (C)	19,360	TRARALGON	P.S.	9	TRARALGON	249	960	POOR	54%
TRARALGON (S)	3,740								
WARRAGUL	11,720	WARRAGUL	P.S.	5	WARRAGUL	249	480	POOR	32%
WOORAYL	10,680	LEONGATHA	P.S.	3	LEONGATHA	50		POOR	7%

COURT REGION: MOE

STATE REGION: EAST GIPPSLAND

Shire	Population 1983	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	No. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courtroom Utilisation %
AVON	3,910	STRATFORD	P.S.						
BAIRNSDALE(T)	10,000	BAIRNSDALE	P.S.	3	BAIRNSDALE	249	2,520	FAIR	21%
BAIRNSDALE(S)	5,680								
MAFFRA	9,480	HEYFIELD MAFFRA	P.S. P.S.	2 3					
OMEQ	1,580	OMEQ	P.S.		OMEQ	AS REQUIRED	24	FAIR	4%
ORBOST	6,290	ORBOST	P.S.	1	ORBOST	24	360	FAIR	9%
SALE (C)	13,820	SALE	P.S.	8	SALE	249	2,160	POOR	25%
TAMBO	7,920	BRUTHEN LAKES ENTRANCE	P.S. P.S.	2	LAKES ENTRANCE	24	360	FAIR	8%

MOE REGION
EAST GIPPSLAND/CENTRAL GIPPSLAND

COURT HOUSE LOCATION	OVERALL BUILDING CONDITION STATUS	ADEQUACY OF PRESENT COURT ACCOMMODATION				SUITABILITY OF COURT BUILDING FOR:		BUILDING FLEXIBILITY RATING	SITE POTENTIAL FOR:		DOES COURT HOUSE MEET MINIMUM STANDARDS?
		MAGISTRATES	STAFF	PUBLIC		TANDEM SITTING OF MAGISTRATES	USE BY HIGHER JURISDICTIONS		EXPANSION	DEVELOPMENT	
				IN COURT	OUT OF COURT						
CENTRAL GIPPSLAND REGION											
KORRUMBURRA	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	YES	YES	LOW	ADEQUATE	FAIR	YES
LEDINGATHA	POOR	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	NO	POOR	LOW	FAIR	NO (LP)
MOE	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	YES	NO	LOW	GOOD	LOW	YES
MORWELL	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	GOOD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	YES	YES	LOW	LOW	FAIR	YES
TRARALGON	ADEQUATE	POOR	POOR	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	NO	NO	LOW	LOW	LOW	NO
WARRAGUL	POOR	POOR	ADEQUATE	POOR	POOR	NO	YES	LOW	ADEQUATE	GOOD	NO
YARRAM	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	GOOD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	NO	NO	LOW	LOW	LOW	NO
EAST GIPPSLAND REGION											
BATINDALE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	ADEQUATE	POOR	YES	YES	LOW	LOW	LOW	NO (LP)
LAKES ENTRANCE	GOOD	ADEQUATE	POOR	GOOD	POOR	NO	NO	-	N/A	NIL	NO
OMED	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	GOOD	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	ADEQUATE	GOOD	NO (LP)
ORBOST	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR	NO	NO	POOR	ADEQUATE	GOOD	NO (LP)
SALE	POOR	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	YES	LOW	LOW	LOW	NO (RP)

COURT REGION: SHEPPARTON

STATE REGION: GOULBURN

Shire	Population 1983	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	No. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courtroom Utilisation %
ALEXANDRA	4,560	ALEXANDRA	P.S.	3	ALEXANDRA	50	120		9%
BENALLA	13,210	BENALLA	P.S.	5	BENALLA	249	480		29%
BROADFORD	2,600	BROADFORD	P.S.	1					
COBRAM	6,520	COBRAM	P.S.	2	COBRAM	50	24		11%
DEAKIN	6,160	TONGALA	P.S.	1					
EUROA	4,430	EUROA	P.S.	2	EUROA	50	48		5%
GOULBURN	2,200	NAGAMBIE	P.S.	2					
KILMORE	5,120	KILMORE	P.S.	5	KILMORE	100	280		47%
KYABRAM	5,780	KYABRAM	P.S.	2	kyabram	50	120		
MANSFIELD	4,740	MANSFIELD	P.S.	3	MANSFIELD	150	480		25%
NATHALIA	3,350	NATHALIA	P.S.	1	NATHALIA	25	12		2%
NUMURKAH	6,370	NUMURKAH	P.S.	2	NUMURKAH	100	36		5%
RODNEY	15,170	TATURA	P.S.	1	TATURA	50	16		6%
SEYMOUR	11,600	SEYMOUR	P.S.	5	SEYMOUR	249	800		19%
PUCKAPUNYL	3,000	PUCKAPUNYL	(ARMY INSTALLATION)						
SHEPPARTON (C)	25,390	SHEPPARTON	P.S.	14	SHEPPARTON	249	1200		63%

COURT REGION: SHEPPARTON

STATE REGION: GOULBURN

Shire	Population 1983	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	No. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courthouse Utilisation %
SHEPPARTON (S)	7,750	DOOKIE	P.S.						
TUNGAMAH	2,880	TUNGAMAH	P.S.						
VIOLET TOWN	1,390	VIOLET TOWN	P.S.	1					
WARRANGA	4,490	RUSHWORTH			RUSHWORTH	50			5%
YEA	3,790	YEA			YEA	25			5%

COURT REGION: SHEPPARTON

STATE REGION: NORTH EASTERN

Shire	Population 1983	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	No. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courtroom Utilisation %
BEECHWORTH	4,740	BEECHWORTH	P.S.	2	BEECHWORTH	124	28	GOOD	6%
BRIGHT	5,760	BRIGHT MOUNT BEAUTY	P.S. P.S.	3 2	BRIGHT	24	28	FAIR	9%
CHILTERN	2,080	CHILTERN	P.S.	2					
MYRTLEFORD	4,270	MYRTLEFORD	P.S.	3	MYRTLEFORD	50	28	FAIR	7%
OXLEY	5,070	OXLEY							
RUTHERGLEN	2,930	RUTHERGLEN	P.S.	2	RUTHERGLEN	50	280	FAIR	10%
TALLANGATTA	3,870	TALLANGATTA	P.S.	2	TALLANGATTA	174	140	FAIR	5%
UPPER MURRAY	2,570	CORRYONG	P.S.	3	CORRYONG	24			
WANGARATTA (C)	19,380	WANGARATTA	P.S.	8	WANGARATTA	249	3,984	POOR	15
WANGARATTA (S)									
WODONGA	21,730	WODONGA	P.S.	9	WODONGA	249	640	FAIR	22%
YACKANDANDAH	3,770	YACKANDANDAH	P.S.	2					
YARRAWONGA	4,830	YARRAWONGA	P.S.	3	YARRAWONGA	24	240	FAIR	5%

SHEPPARTON REGION
GOULBURN & NORTH EASTERN

COURT HOUSE LOCATION	OVERALL BUILDING CONDITION STATUS	ADEQUACY OF PRESENT COURT ACCOMMODATION				SUITABILITY OF COURT BUILDING FOR:		BUILDING FLEXIBILITY RATING	SITE POTENTIAL FOR:		DOES COURT HOUSE MEET MINIMUM STANDARDS?
		MAGISTRATES	STAFF	PUBLIC		TANDEM SITTING OF MAGISTRATES	USE BY HIGHER JURISDICTIONS		EXPANSION	DEVELOPMENT	
				IN COURT	OUT OF COURT						
<u>*Historically Classified.</u>											
<u>GOULBURN REGION</u>											
*ALEXANDRA	GOOD	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	LOW	LOW	NO
BENALLA	GOOD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	GOOD	ADEQUATE	YES	NO	LOW	LOW	GOOD	NO (RP)
COBRAM	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	GOOD	ADEQUATE	NO	NO	POOR	FAIR	FAIR	NO (LP)
ELROA	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	FAIR	GOOD	NO (LP)
KILMORE	POOR	ADEQUATE	POOR	GOOD	ADEQUATE	NO	YES	LOW	LOW	FAIR	NO (LP)
KYABRAM	GOOD	ADEQUATE	POOR	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	LOW	FAIR	NO (RP)
*MANSFIELD	ADEQUATE	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	LOW	LOW	NO (LP)
NATHALIA	GOOD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	NO	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO
*NUMURKAH	GOOD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	NO	NO	LOW	LOW	FAIR	NO (LP)
RUSHWORTH	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	FAIR	LOW	NO
SEYMOUR	GOOD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	GOOD	GOOD	YES	NO	FAIR	FAIR	GOOD	NO (RP)
SHEPPARTON	ADEQUATE	POOR	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	YES	YES	LOW	FAIR	GOOD	NO (RP)
TATURA	ADEQUATE	GOOD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	FAIR	GOOD	NO (LP)
YEA	ADEQUATE	GOOD	POOR	GOOD	ADEQUATE	NO	NO	FAIR	FAIR	GOOD	NO
<u>NORTH EASTERN REGION</u>											
*BEECHWORTH	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	NO	YES	LOW	LOW	LOW	NO
*BRIGHT	ADEQUATE	GOOD	ADEQUATE	GOOD	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	LOW	FAIR	NO (LP)
CORRYONG	GOOD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	LOW	FAIR	NO (LP)
MYRTLEFORD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	GOOD	ADEQUATE	NO	NO	LOW	LOW	FAIR	NO (RP)
RUTHERGLEN	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	LOW	GOOD	NO (RP)
TALLANGATTA	GOOD	GOOD	ADEQUATE	GOOD	GOOD	NO	NO	LOW	LOW	FAIR	NO (LP)
WANGARATTA ⁽¹⁾	ADEQUATE	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	YES	YES	GOOD	FAIR	FAIR	NO (RP)
WOODONGA	GOOD	GOOD	POOR	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	YES	NO	LOW	LOW	FAIR	NO (RP)
YARRAWONGA	GOOD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	NO	YES	LOW	LOW	FAIR	NO (LP)
(1) Upgrading of this Court House proceeding to provide a 3 Court room multi-jurisdictional Court Complex. (To be completed late 1985. This assessment relates to existing building).											

COURT REGION: GEELONG

STATE REGION: CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

Shire	Population 1983	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	No. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courtroom Utilisation %
ARARAT (C)	8,740	ARARAT	P.S.	4	ARARAT	200	600	FAIR	21.7%
ARARAT (S)	4,340	WILLAURA							
AVOCA	2,190	AVOCA	P.S.	2					
BACCHUS MARSH	8,380	BACCHUS MARSH	P.S.	6	BACCHUS MARSH	100	600	FAIR	18.5%
BALLARAT (C)	56,210	BALLARAT	P.S.	17	BALLARAT	249	800	FAIR	50%
BALLARAT (S)		ADJACENT TO BALLARAT							
BALLAN	2,750	BALLAN	P.S.	1					
BUNGAREE	3,920	BUNGAREE	P.S.						
BUNINYONG	8,790	BUNINYONG	P.S.						
CRESWICK	4,140	CRESWICK	P.S.						
DAYLESFORD & GLEN LYON	4,560	DAYLESFORD	P.S.	2	DAYLESFORD	100	140	POOR	9%
GRENVILLE	4,830	SCARSDALE SMYTHESDALE	P.S.						
LEXTON	1,220	LEXTON	P.S.						
RIPON	3,320	BEAUFORT	P.S.	2					

COURT REGION: GEELONG

STATE REGION: CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

Shire	Population 1983	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	No. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courtroom Utilisation %
Sebastopol	6,790	ADJACENT TO BALLARAT							
TALBOT & CLUNES	1,810	CLUNES	P.S.	1					

COURT REGION: GEELONG

STATE REGION: BARWON

Shire	Population 1983	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	No. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courtroom Utilisation %
BANNOCKBURN	3,310	BANNOCKBURN	P.S.	1					
BARRABOOL	5,890	ANGLESEA	P.S.	2					
BELLARINE	32,880	DRYSDALE	P.S.	2					
COLAC (C)	16,670	COLAC	P.S.	5	COLAC	249	440	GOOD	16%
COLAC (S)		CRESSY	P.S.						
CORIO	54,010	ADJACENT TO GEELONG							
GEELONG	14,540	GEELONG	P.S.	56	GEELONG	249	2,040	FAIR	89%
GEELONG WEST	15,170	ADJACENT TO GEELONG							
LEIGH	1,360	ROKEWOOD	P.S.						
NEWTOWN	11,430	ADJACENT TO GEELONG							
OTWAY	3,780	APOLLO BAY BEECHFOREST	P.S. P.S.	2					
QUEENSCLIFFE	3,250	QUEENSCLIFFE	P.S.	1					
SOUTH BARWON	37,750	ADJACENT TO GEELONG							

COURT REGION: GEELONG

STATE REGION: BARWON

Shire	Population 1983	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	No. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courtroom Utilisation %
WINCHELSEA	3,860	WINCHELSEA LORNE	P.S. P.S.						

COURT REGION: GEELONG

STATE REGION: SOUTH WESTERN

Shire	Population 1983	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	No. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courtroom Utilisation %
BELFAST	1,540	YAMUK							
CAMPERDOWN	3,670	CAMPERDOWN	P.S.	2	CAMPERDOWN	100	400	POOR	21.7%
DUNDAS	3,640	CAVENDISH	P.S.						
GLENELG	4,500	CASTERTON	P.S.	2					
HAMILTON	10,070	HAMILTON	P.S.	2	HAMILTON	249	1,200	FAIR	13%
HAMPDEN	7,650	SKIPTON LISMORE TERANG	P.S. P.S. P.S.	1 2					
HEYTESBURY	7,950	COBDEN	P.S.	1					
KOROIT	1,570	KOROIT	P.S.	1					
MINHAMITE	21,120	MACARTHUR	P.S.						
MORTLAKE	3,600	MORTLAKE	P.S.	2					
MOUNT ROUSE	2,530	PENSHURST DUNKELD	P.S. P.S.						
PORT FAIRY	2,380	PORT FAIRY	F.S.	2	PORT FAIRY	50	84	POOR	4.4%
PORTLAND (C)	17,170	PORTLAND	P.S.	7	PORTLAND	249	360	FAIR	29%
PORTLAND (S)		HEYWOOD	P.S.						
WANNON	3,230	COLERAINE	P.S.						

COURT REGION: GEELONG

STATE REGION: SOUTH WESTERN

Shire	Population 1983	Population Centre	Police Station (PS)	Solicitors Offices	Currently Operational Courthouses	Nb. of Days Open to Public	Time Spent Giving Advice (PA)	Functional Adequacy	Courtroom Utilisation %
WARRNAMBOOL (C)	29,410	WARRNAMBOOL	P.S.	7	WARRNAMBOOL	249	4,160	POOR	23.00%

GEEELONG REGION
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, BARWON & SOUTH WESTERN

COURT HOUSE LOCATION	OVERALL BUILDING CONDITION STATUS	ADEQUACY OF PRESENT COURT ACCOMMODATION				SUITABILITY OF COURT BUILDING FOR:		BUILDING FLEXIBILITY RATING	SITE POTENTIAL FOR:		DOES COURT HOUSE MEET MINIMUM STANDARDS?
		MAGISTRATES	STAFF	PUBLIC		TANDEM SITTING OF MAGISTRATES	USE BY HIGHER JURISDICTIONS		EXPANSION	DEVELOPMENT	
				IN COURT	OUT OF COURT						
<u>CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGION</u>											
ARARAT	GOOD	ADEQUATE	POOR	ADEQUATE	POOR	YES	YES	LOW	LOW	LOW	NO
BALLARAT	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	YES	YES	FAIR	LOW	FAIR	YES
DAYLESFORD	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	GOOD	FAIR	NO (LP)
<u>BARWON REGION</u>											
DOLAC	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	ADEQUATE	YES	YES	LOW	ADEQUATE	FAIR	YES
GEEELONG	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	YES	YES	LOW	LOW	LOW	YES
<u>SOUTH WESTERN REGION</u>											
CAMPERDOWN	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	ADEQUATE	FAIR	NO (LP)
HAMILTON	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	YES	YES	LOW	ADEQUATE	FAIR	NO (LP)
PORT FAIRY	POOR	ADEQUATE	POOR	ADEQUATE	POOR	NO	NO	LOW	NIL	POOR	NO
PORTLAND	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	NO	NO	LOW	NIL	FAIR	NO
WARRNAMBULL	ADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	POOR	POOR	POOR	YES	YES	LOW	LOW	FAIR	NO (LP)