1. The *Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response—Permanency) Amendment Bill 2021* (the Bill) permanently implements certain aspects of temporary laws that were made in the Justice portfolio in response to the COVID-19 emergency.
2. The Bill amends the following pieces of legislation:
* the *Oaths Act 1867* to allow affidavits and statutory declarations to be signed electronically and witnessed over audio visual link in certain circumstances, and to allow oaths to be administered over audio visual link;
* the *Powers of Attorney Act 1998* to allow general powers of attorney for corporations, partnerships and unincorporated associations to be signed electronically and without a witness, and to allow nurse practitioners (in addition to doctors) to sign a certificate which forms part of an advance health directive stating that the person making the document appears to have capacity to make the document;
* the *Property Law Act 1974* to allow certain deeds to be signed electronically and without a witness and to remove outdated requirements for the execution of deeds;
* the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* and the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Rules 2014*, to streamline and increase accessibility in domestic and family violence (DFV) proceedings by introducing alternative verification arrangements for private applications for protection orders and variations of domestic violence orders in urgent situations, allowing DFV proceedings to be conducted by audio visual link or audio link at the court’s discretion, and allowing electronic filing, where approved by the Principal Registrar;
* the *Liquor Act 1992* to provide for licensees of a subsidiary on-premises licence (meals) (i.e. licensed restaurants) to apply for a permanent licence condition authorising the sale of 1.5 litres of wine (i.e. two bottles) with a takeaway meal. Licensees will need to establish adequate systems to ensure the responsible service and delivery of takeaway liquor. The application fee for the licence condition will be waived until 1 July 2022 for restaurant licensees eligible for COVID-19 temporary takeaway liquor authorities prior to the commencement of the new provisions.
1. The Bill also extends the expiry of the *Retail Shop and Other Commercial Leases (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020* and makes other minor and miscellaneous amendments to support the reforms outlined above.
2. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response—Permanency) Amendment Bill 2021 into the Legislative Assembly.
3. *Attachments:*
* [Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response—Permanency) Amendment Bill 2021](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Statement of Compatibility](Attachments/SoC.PDF)