

# News releases - John Rau

## Modernising South Australia's criminal justice system

John Rau

May 11, 2017

The Attorney-General has introduced a bill containing measures aimed at modernising communication within South Australia's criminal justice system.

The *Summary Procedure (Services) Amendment Bill 2017* introduced to Parliament yesterday will allow the immediate enforcement of paedophile and child protection restraining orders.

In addition, the proposed changes would give the Magistrates Court the ability set up a system to accept guilty pleas online, enable court documents for criminal matters to be filed and exchanged electronically, and give police the power to issue a court summons to offenders on the spot.

### Background

The proposed changes to the *Summary Procedure Act 1921* were developed following community consultation last year, and in depth consultation with the legal sector.

In response to feedback from the sector, the Government introduced changes aimed at ensuring that paedophile or child protection restraining orders can become binding immediately if the defendant is present in Court when the order is made, as well as giving police the power to issue offenders with an on the spot court summons.

### Quotes attributable to Attorney-General John Rau

There are clearly efficiencies to be gained by ensuring our criminal justice system can keep pace with new and emerging technologies.

By keeping the door open for the courts to adopt new technologies, instead of prescribing specific types of communication, we are helping to ensure our criminal justice system can remain flexible and adapt to new means of communication as they emerge – rather than having to change the law every time a new type of technology is developed.

In addition, changes to the way paedophile and child protection restraining orders are served will help better protect some of our most vulnerable citizens.