

JURY TRIAL COURTROOMS — FEASIBILITY STUDY

**936. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:**

Noting continued and worsening delays in the administration of justice in Western Australia, I ask the following.

- (1) Has the state government investigated any options to assist in expediting time to trial for criminal cases within present accommodation constraints while work continues on the Department of Justice's feasibility study into the construction of new criminal trial courtrooms?
- (2) If yes to (1), what are these options?

**Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Attorney General.

- (1)–(2) The government does not accept the premise of the opening statement to the member's questions. However, in relation to time to trial, as per the answer to the member's questions of 17 August 2023—see question without notice 884—the government is currently undertaking a feasibility study into the operational requirements across numerous sites in the Perth central business district and how these facilities are currently used. In addition, since 2018, the Cook Labor government has supported an additional 7.5 judicial officers in the District Court, and, specifically, since 2021, the newly created justice pipeline model contributed 3.5 of the 7.5 judicial officers. Other opportunities to reduce the time to trial that fall within the control of the District Court include, but are not limited to, case management of matters by the judiciary, the court and the legal profession working together on complex issues impacting the availability of counsel and other key trial participants, and an over-listing practice.