

Change of
venue.

24.—(1.) Where, at any time after the presentation in a court in a part of Australia of an indictment for an offence against this Act and before the jury has returned its verdict—

(a) the defendant objects to the trial on the ground that the offence, if committed, was committed in another part of Australia; and

(b) the Judge is satisfied that the offence, if committed, was committed in that other part of Australia,

the Judge shall forthwith order that the proceedings on the indictment be discontinued and, if the jury has been empanelled, that the jury be discharged, and that the defendant appear before that court or another court of the first-mentioned part of Australia at a specified place and at a specified time not later than twenty-eight days after the date on which the order is made, to be dealt with in accordance with this section.

(2.) Where a Judge makes an order under the last preceding sub-section, he may also—

(a) order that the defendant be kept in such custody as is specified in the order; or

(b) admit the defendant to bail, on such recognizances as the Judge thinks fit.

(3.) If, before the time at which the defendant is to appear before a court, the Attorney-General notifies that court that he does not intend to file an indictment against the defendant in a court of another part of Australia, the first-mentioned court shall, as soon as practicable after being so notified, make an order—

(a) discharging the defendant from his obligation to appear before that court at that time; and

(b) directing—

(i) if the defendant is held in custody—that he be released; or

(ii) if he has been admitted to bail—that the recognizances upon which he was admitted to bail be discharged.

(4.) If, at or before the time at which the defendant is to appear before a court, the Attorney-General notifies that court that he has filed an indictment against the defendant in a court of another part of Australia, the first-mentioned court shall—

(a) if the defendant is in custody—forthwith; or

(b) in any other case—as soon as practicable after the time at which the defendant is to appear before that court, make an order directing that the defendant be taken, as soon as practicable, in the custody of such person as it directs, to the

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