Queensland Attorney-General Cameron Dick is to decide before the year’s end whether to allow the re-testing of DNA evidence used to convict a man of murder nearly 20 years ago.

On Boxing Day 1990, 19-year-old South African tourist Michelle Cohn was beaten to death at a Surfers Paradise apartment block.

Local car thief Shane Sebastian Davis was found guilty of the murder and given a life sentence in 1991.

Davis has consistently maintained his innocence and a group of lawyers including a former High Court judge and a former Queensland director of public prosecutions say crucial DNA evidence used to convict him should be tested again in the interests of justice.

In the United States, so-called DNA innocence testing has exonerated 242 people.

Mr Dick says he will decide by the end of the year whether the Davis evidence will be re-examined.