

News releases - John Rau

Tough new penalties for homemade bomb makers

John Rau

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People who detonate homemade explosives without a lawful excuse will face up to 20 years imprisonment under new measures announced by the State Government today.

The *Statutes Amendment (Explosives) Bill 2017* will target people involved in the manufacture, supply and use of improvised explosive devices and the related substances, apparatus and instructions.

The Bill also expands police powers to seize and destroy devices in certain circumstances, and break, enter and search premises, vehicles or vessels without warrant for the purposes of ascertaining whether an explosives offence is being or has been committed.

Background

The new offences include:

- The use of an explosive device without lawful excuse (maximum 20 years imprisonment)
- The possession of an explosive device in a public place without lawful excuse (maximum 10 years imprisonment)
- The possession, supply or participation in the manufacture of an explosive device without a lawful excuse (maximum seven years imprisonment).

Currently most offences relating to explosives are set out in the Explosives Act and Regulations, however these penalties are not sufficient and the limitations of the Act mean that Police cannot use various investigatory surveillance options.

Quotes attributable to Attorney-General John Rau

Whether it involves malicious intent, or sheer recklessness, the use of homemade bombs – or improvised explosive devices – represents a significant risk to South Australians.

These tough new penalties should serve as a significant deterrent for anyone seeking to manufacture or detonate an explosive device.

Quotes attributable to Police Minister Chris Picton

These changes will give Police greater capability to intervene during the early stages of manufacture, before these devices can be used.