

Greater Police powers to combat terrorism

John Rau

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The State Government will give Police greater powers to combat terrorism, through new laws targeting people who produce and distribute extremist material.

Under legislation announced today, it will be an offence to possess, produce or distribute extremist material.

The *Summary Offences (Extremist Material) Amendment Bill 2017* will give Police greater powers to intervene at an early stage of radicalisation – enabling them to potentially disrupt extremist activity by arresting subjects and imposing stringent bail conditions.

Background

Under the changes people convicted of possessing, producing or distributing extremist material will face up to two years in jail or a fine of \$10,000.

The law includes provisions to take into account media reporting or possession by academics or others for a legitimate public purpose.

In the case of extremist material in the form of instructions for committing terrorist acts, there will be a higher penalty of seven years imprisonment.

The lower-level offence will allow Police to respond to lower risk behavior, where a person is in possession of extremist material, but has not necessarily developed the capability or intent to commit a terrorist act.

Quotes attributable to Attorney-General John Rau

It's not good enough to wait for people to become radicalised before taking acting.

These changes are an important step towards further protecting South Australians against the threat of terrorism.

Quotes attributable to Police Minister Chris Picton

Police will have greater power to intervene early before extremist activity becomes serious threat.

Targeting the possession, production and distribution of extremist material means Police can act on terrorist activity earlier.

This will assist Police in preventing acts of terrorism, rather than responding to them as they occur.