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GOVERNMENT'S LAW AND ORDER CHRISTMAS CRACKER

A range of new laws covering anti-social behaviour, serious drug offences, paedophile restraining orders and one set to strip David Hicks of any profits he may seek from selling the story of his exploits after his release will be in force before Christmas.

Attorney-General Michael Atkinson says that the Governor in Executive Council has proclaimed laws guaranteed to ruin the festive season for some of our most persistent and serious offenders.

Those laws include an overhaul of our **serious drug laws**, including a new maximum penalty of life imprisonment and million dollar fines for trafficking drugs to children, new penalties of life imprisonment for trafficking and manufacturing or cultivation of commercial quantities of drugs.

The drug laws could also send someone with commercial quantities of precursor chemicals to jail for up to 25 years rather than the previous penalty that was just a \$5,000 fine.

On Sunday, 9 December, the new internet focused **paedophile restraining orders** will also come into force.

These court orders prevent convicted paedophiles from using the internet and give police the power to enter premises and seize equipment to enforce internet bans.

The order is linked to registration under the Child Sex Offender Register, which came in to force last month.

The Government's crackdown on **hoon drivers** also gets even tougher.

From 16 December hoon and drug drivers, those that drive persistently unregistered or persistently unlicensed as well as graffiti vandals can have their vehicle clamped at home for up to 90 days, impounded or forfeited.

The period for which the courts can take into account a previous offence has now been extended from five to 10 years.

"Already we have seen hoons lose their cars for good and I fully expect to see more of these cars sold off by the courts with proceeds going to the Victims of Crime fund," Mr Atkinson says.

"These idiots ruin people's quality of life with their dangerous, anti-social behaviour and we are acting to hit them where it hurts, by taking their pride and joy off the road.

"The new laws provide an immediate sanction that not only causes inconvenience, but with a bright yellow clamp on the car, tells the neighbours what kind of behaviour the owner has been up to."

The State Government's new law to prevent **David Hicks** from profiting from selling the story of his exploits and detention, and from his conviction by the U.S. Government of terrorist-related activities has come into force from today.

Hicks is due for release from prison on December 29.

Attorney-General Michael Atkinson proposed the law earlier this year, shortly after David Hicks returned to South Australia to serve out the sentence handed down to him by an American military tribunal, the first Guantanamo Bay detainee to be convicted under the *U.S. Military Commissions Act 2006*.

At that tribunal, Hicks pleaded guilty to providing material support to an international terrorist organisation and court documents show he received training on guerilla warfare, weapons, kidnapping and assassination.

Those documents also reveal he was issued with an automatic rifle, ammunition and grenades, and joined al Qaeda and Taliban fighters near the Kandahar airport in Afghanistan.

"This week Australia has mourned the death of Private Luke Worsley, the fourth Australian soldier to die on active duty in Afghanistan. There can be few people in this country who would think it right that someone who joined the forces that now stand opposed to our troops should profit from his story," Mr Atkinson says.

Other criminal justice reforms introduced by the Rann Government, which came into force in earlier in 2007 are the:

- **Child Sex Offenders Registration Act 2006;**
- **Criminal Assets Confiscation (Serious Offences) Act 2007;**
- **Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Act 2006;**
- **Criminal Law (Sentencing) (Dangerous Offenders) Act 2007;**
- **Criminal Law Consolidation (Drink Spiking) Act 2006;**
- **Evidence (Use of Audio and Audio Visual Links) Act 2006;**
- **Evidence (Suppression Orders) Amendment Act 2006;**
- **Statutes Amendment (Criminal Procedure) Act 2005;**
- **Statutes Amendment (Sentencing of Sex Offenders) Act 2005;**
- **Statutes Amendment and Repeal (Aggravated Offences) Act 2005;**
- **Summary Offences (Gatecrashers at Parties) Act 2006; and**
- **Terrorism (Preventative Detention) (Miscellaneous) Act 2006.**