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Rock Throwing Offenders Face Seven Years Jail

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton welcomed tough new legislation announced by the Attorney General Christian Porter where offenders who throw rocks at cars could face up to seven years jail.

"There have been numerous police reports lately about people throwing rocks from the Kenwick Link and Nicholson Road bridges on to vehicles travelling along Roe Highway. Similarly, rocks have been thrown at local public transport buses and at private vehicles in residential streets," said Dr Nahan.

"The new legislation and its maximum penalties of up to seven years in jail and a \$36,000 fine should act as a significant deterrent to anyone thinking of doing such a dangerous act as throwing something at a moving vehicle."

Dr Nahan said the new legislation would provide the community with the strongest protection in Australia by making it an offence to cause fear or alarm in a driver by throwing an object at or near a vehicle.

"So far this year, there have been 1,170 incidents where objects were thrown at a bus or a security vehicle, but that does not include the many members of the community who have personally experienced this growing problem," said Dr Nahan.

"These are serious attacks on the community and they must be stopped."

"The legislation will also create an entirely new offence where a prosecutor will not have to prove that a person's life was put in danger or that the offender intended to hurt anyone. The existing offence of endangering a person's life, health or safety under the Criminal Code will also be increased."

"Labor has been soft on tougher legislation lately but they should back this bill and help us provide the community with the protection that it deserves."

Dr Nahan recommended that anyone who regularly uses Roe Highway should be on alert for rock throwers and if they see anything suspicious, they should pull over at a safe location and call the police on 131 444.

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