

LEGISLATION BACKLOG

Statement by Member for Joondalup

MR BAKER (Joondalup) [12.55 pm]: I bring to the attention of this House the unprecedented backlog of much-needed legislation in the other place caused by the Labor Party's decision to block or frustrate the timely passage of any legislation that has a law and order focus. The truth is that the Labor Party is so tough on crime and is so concerned about the safety and security of our senior citizens that it has blocked the timely passage of the Sentencing Matrix Bill 1999; a Bill that, as members will appreciate, will have the effect of, among other things, increasing penalties for crimes against the vulnerable in our community. The Labor Party in fact voted against the Criminal Code Amendment Bill 1999; a Bill that sought to close the loophole in our State's tough "three strikes and you're in" sentencing laws. The Labor Party is deliberately procrastinating the passage of the Criminal Property Confiscation Bill in this place and, I believe, intends to slow the passage of this much-needed Bill in the other place in due course - if it ever gets there. The Labor Party also frustrated the timely passage of the Weapons Bill and the Surveillance Devices Bill.

The strong link between illicit drugs and violent crime is well established, but the Labor Party is so tough on drug-related crime that it will decriminalise the possession, consumption and cultivation of cannabis and establish government-sponsored heroin injecting rooms in Western Australia. The truth is that, in reality, the Labor Party is soft on crime, but it needs to continue with its false pretence of being tough on crime, at least until after the next state election.