



Mark McGowan
WA LABOR LEADER



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MEDIA RELEASE

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Life in prison: WA Labor unveils toughest action on meth traffickers

- WA Labor to introduce the toughest sentencing regime for methamphetamine traffickers
- Meth traffickers will face a maximum life sentence in prison in a plan to cut the supply in WA
- Attorney General given approval to exercise reserve powers and appeal to the judiciary if sentences are not strong enough
- Current sentencing is insufficient to deter meth traffickers from their lethal trade

Methamphetamine traffickers will face a maximum life sentence in prison under a McGowan Labor Government.

The *Misuse of Drugs Act* will be amended to increase the maximum sentence of imprisonment from 25 years to a life penalty.

WA Labor's tough new sentences send the strongest message yet to the community and to the judiciary that methamphetamine traffickers will not be tolerated in Western Australia.

Criminals caught with the trafficable quantity of methamphetamine - 28 grams - will face the life penalty.

The new penalty forms part of WA Labor's Methamphetamine Action Plan to reduce demand, reduce harm and reduce supply.

WA Labor has already released comprehensive policies to tackle the methamphetamine scourge across the State, including additional rehabilitation centres, funding for early intervention, and two dedicated drug and rehabilitation prisons to break the cycle of drug related crime.

Comments by WA Labor Leader Mark McGowan:

"This is an extremely tough approach to meth traffickers and is what our community expects.

"Meth traffickers are evil people and are responsible for tearing families apart and destroying lives.

"They are killing people – they deserve to be locked up.

"Western Australia has been in a methamphetamine crisis for many years and nothing has been done.

"During the last eight and half years of the Liberal-National Government, WA has developed the worst rates of meth usage of any State in Australia.

"We need drastic action and we need it now."

Comments from Shadow Attorney General John Quigley:

"We want to cut the supply of this devastating drug -- our intention is to cut the head off the snake.

"WA Labor will introduce the toughest sentencing regime in the country for meth traffickers.

"Our message is clear -- if you're thinking about trafficking methamphetamine in this State, think again.

"If we do not see the sentences the community expects, as Attorney General I shall use the Attorney General's reserve powers to appeal to the judiciary to respect the will of the Parliament when sentencing meth traffickers."

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