

New WA laws get tough on graffiti

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GRAFFITISTS will be hit with tough new penalties - including fines of \$24,000 - under legislation developed by the Government

Attorney-General Christian Porter said today that the new laws, which formed part of the Government's crackdown on antisocial behaviour, would be introduced into State Parliament this week.

"Under the new laws offenders will face double the maximum time in prison, from one year to two years, and double the maximum fine from \$12,000 to \$24,000," Mr Porter said.

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"We are also making it an offence for retailers to sell graffiti implements such as spray cans to children, with maximum penalties of \$6000 for a first offence and \$12,000 for subsequent offences."

The Attorney-General said the problem cost State and local governments \$25 million a year.

Mr Porter said more than \$600,000 had already been provided to local governments and non-profit organisations to assist in various graffiti reduction strategies.

A graffiti cleanup referral pilot program had also been established to make juvenile graffiti offenders accountable for their actions and help them develop insight into the cost, inconvenience and risks associated with graffiti.

There will also soon be curriculum in schools that supported specific anti-graffiti education.

The Attorney General urged the Opposition to support the quick passage of the new laws through State Parliament.

"The State Government made a promise to the Western Australian public at the last election that we would crack down on antisocial behaviour such as graffiti," he said.

"We have kept that promise. By the end of the year we will have introduced into Parliament legislation targeting hoons; tougher penalties for graffiti, rock throwing, arson offences and identity theft; and, importantly, prohibited behaviour orders.



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