

KEEPING PENALTIES IN LINE WITH COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

WINNING THE WAR ON DRUGS

2036

WINNING THE
WAR ON DRUGS



Marshall
LIBERAL TEAM



2036

WILL MARK OUR STATE'S BICENTENARY

By the time our State turns 200 years old, I want South Australia to be a place of prosperity.

Planning and delivering on my vision for a better future starts now.

This policy is an important part of our plan to deliver a clear and responsible pathway to recovery and success.

See where it fits in below

1.0 GROWING OUR ECONOMY

2.0 THE BEST EDUCATION SYSTEM

3.0 BEING A HEALTHY STATE

4.0 STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

5.0 BUILDING OUR STATE

6.0 ENSURING SAFETY AND JUSTICE

6.1 Collaborating with police, emergency services and government agencies to deliver the best possible community safety outcomes

6.2 Reducing criminal behaviour through efficient, effective policing and a corrections system that reduces reoffending


6.4 Dealing with emerging trends in crime, as well as entrenched issues such as domestic and family violence and substance abuse

6.5 Delivering a safer community through a fair and transparent justice system

7.0 PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

8.0 EMBRACING OUR UNIQUE CULTURE

9.0 RUNNING AN EFFICIENT AND STABLE GOVERNMENT



“Penalties for trafficking, manufacture and possession of illegal substances need to be in line with community expectations.”



THE PROBLEM

Our drug laws under the Controlled Substances Act have been in operation since 1984.

Since this legislation was enacted more than 30 years ago, many penalties for possession, trafficking and manufacture of drugs have remained unchanged.

However, within this time, drug crimes have changed.

Ice and other chemical drugs are increasingly a scourge on our communities, both metropolitan and regional.

The community expectations for punishing drug offenders has also changed over the last thirty years, and the legislation should reflect that shift.

The maximum penalties for possession and use of cannabis is one example where community expectations for penalties do not match the outdated legislation.

Cannabis is the illicit drug most commonly used by secondary school students, yet it has a maximum penalty of just \$500, a penalty which has not increased since 1984.

Drug crime legislation was enacted more than 30 years ago and has become outdated.

Further, in actual practice, fines under regulation for cannabis possession are only \$150 for an amount less than 25 grams – this is a similar penalty to the one imposed for jaywalking.

Drug use and sales have changed, therefore penalties need to change as well.



THE STATE LIBERALS' PLAN

The community is calling for harsher penalties for drug crimes and a Marshall Liberal Government has listened and will act if elected in 2018.

If elected in March 2018, a Marshall Liberal Government will firstly ensure the maximum penalties for cannabis possession are increased from the current maximum of \$500 to \$2,000, which is in line with other maximum penalties for drug possession offences.

This change is also in line with both community expectations and recommendations of the South Australian Coroner who sees the deleterious effects of cannabis use regularly.

Further, a Marshall Liberal Government sees the importance of ensuring our laws are kept up to date, and community expectations for all controlled substance offences are considered.

To this end, a review of all penalties under the Controlled Substances Act will be undertaken to ensure they match our current community expectations.

This legislative review will be undertaken in consultation with key community and legal stakeholders and will ensure our courts are given sufficient scope to impose appropriate penalties, reducing reoffending and reducing harm.



“The Liberals are committed to
doing what it takes to win the war
on drugs.”

Steven Marshall, State Liberal Leader



If you would like to provide feedback on our policy or learn more about our plan, please get in touch via:

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