

## FACT SHEET

### *Corrections Amendment (Electronic Monitoring) Bill 2020*

This Bill proposes amendments to the *Corrections Act 1997* (the Act) to provide express powers for the Parole Board to impose electronic monitoring conditions on a parole order.

Electronic monitoring is widely used in Australia as a technological means to monitor whether offenders are complying with conditions that are attached to their release from custody.

Tasmanian courts already have explicit powers in legislation to impose a condition requiring electronic monitoring when making a home detention order or a family violence order.

Section 72 of the Act currently enables the Parole Board to make a parole order subject to such terms and conditions as the Board considers necessary, but does not contain any specific provisions in relation to electronic monitoring.

All other states and the Northern Territory have legislation that explicitly provides for electronic monitoring of prisoners who are released on parole.

The Bill amends section 72 of the Act to insert a new subsection (5A) that provides this power, without limiting the general powers already available to the Board to impose conditions on a parolee. The Bill provides certainty that the Parole Board may include electronic monitoring as a condition of parole.

Under the amendments, the Board will be able to specify conditions requiring a prisoner who is released on parole:

- to submit to electronic monitoring;
- to not remove, tamper or interfere with, damage or disable any electronic device or equipment used for the purpose of the electronic monitoring, and to not knowingly permit an unauthorised person to do so; and
- to comply with all reasonable and lawful directions that are given in relation to the electronic monitoring by a prescribed or authorised person.

The Bill does not expand the range of controls or prohibitions that the Parole Board is already able to impose under the Act. Electronic monitoring simply provides a means to more effectively ascertain whether a parolee is complying with certain conditions and initiate an appropriate response if a breach is suspected.