

FACT SHEET

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT (DANGEROUS DOGS) BILL 2013

The purpose of this Bill is to introduce in to the *Criminal Code Act 1924* an offence in relation to a dangerous or restricted breed dog that kills a person or causes grievous bodily harm to a person. This offence is included in the *Criminal Code* to signify the seriousness of the offence – it will be an indictable offence and therefore a convicted person may be subject to imprisonment of up to 21 years.

This is the Government's second legislative reform on this matter, the first being an amendment to the *Criminal Code Act* contained within the *Crime (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2013* which was passed by this House in April of this year. This amendment sought to clarify that a "dangerous thing" in Section 150 of the *Criminal Code* could include an inanimate or animate object, such as a dog or other animal.

This amendment goes further by creating a specific offence in relation to attacks by dangerous or restricted breed dogs that result in the death of a person or causes grievous bodily harm to a person. This amendment forms part of a commitment that Tasmania made to the Standing Council on Law and Justice.