

1999  
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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(As presented)

(Attorney-General)

**Crimes Amendment Bill (No 3) 1999**

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**A BILL**

FOR

**An Act to amend the *Crimes Act 1900***

The Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory enacts  
as follows:

**1 Name of Act**

This Act is the *Crimes Amendment Act (No 3) 1999*.

5 **2 Commencement**

This Act commences on the day it is notified in the *Gazette*.

**3 Act amended**

This Act amends the *Crimes Act 1900*.

**4 Insertion**

10 After Division 3B of Part 4 the following Division is inserted:

***“Division 3C—Contamination of goods and related offences***

**“135M Definitions of contaminate and goods**

In this Division—

***contaminate***, for goods, includes—

- 5           (a) interfere with the goods; or  
          (b) make it appear that the goods have been contaminated or  
              interfered with.

***goods*** includes a substance—

- 10           (a) whether or not for human consumption; and  
          (b) whether natural or manufactured; and  
          (c) whether or not incorporated or mixed with other goods.

**“135N Meaning of economic loss**

15           In this Part, economic loss caused through public awareness of the  
          contamination of goods, or the possibility of contamination, includes  
          economic loss caused through—

- (a) members of the public not buying or using the goods or similar  
              goods; or  
          (b) steps taken to avoid public alarm or anxiety or to avoid harm to  
              members of the public.

20           **“135O Contaminating goods with intent to cause public alarm  
              or economic loss**

A person must not contaminate goods with the intention of—

- 25           (a) causing public alarm or anxiety; or  
          (b) causing economic loss through public awareness of the  
              contamination.

Maximum penalty: Imprisonment for 10 years.

**“135P Threatening to contaminate goods with intent to cause public  
alarm or economic loss**

30           “(1) A person must not threaten that goods will be contaminated with  
          the intention of—

- (a) causing public alarm or anxiety; or  
          (b) causing economic loss through public awareness of the possibility  
              of contamination.

Maximum penalty: Imprisonment for 10 years.

35           “(2) For this section, a threat may be made by any conduct, and may be  
          explicit or implicit and conditional or unconditional.

**“135Q Making false statements about contamination of goods  
with intent to cause public alarm or economic loss**

“(1) A person must not make a statement that the person believes to be false with the intention of—

- 5       (a) inducing the person to whom the statement is made or others to believe that goods have been contaminated; and
- (b) in that way, either—
- (i) causing public alarm or anxiety; or
- 10           (ii) causing economic loss through public awareness of the contamination, or the possibility of contamination.

Maximum penalty: Imprisonment for 10 years.

“(2) For this section, making a statement includes communicating information by any means.

**“135R Territorial nexus for offences**

15       It is immaterial that the conduct of a person forming an offence under this Division happened outside the jurisdiction if the person intended by the conduct—

- (a) to cause public alarm or anxiety in the Territory; or
- 20       (b) to cause economic loss in the Territory through public awareness of the contamination, or the possibility of contamination.”.

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**Endnote**

**Act amended**

1       Republished as in force on 28 February 1999. See also Acts 1999 Nos 32 and 50.