

Media Release

The Hon Anthony Carbines MP

Minister for Police
Minister for Community Safety
Minister for Victims
Minister for Racing



Wednesday, 19 March 2025

FIRST MACHETE BAN IN AUSTRALIA PASSES PARLIAMENT

The Allan Labor Government has implemented Australia's first machete ban with the *Terrorism (Community Protection) and Control of Weapons Amendment Bill 2025* passing Parliament today.

Prohibited weapons are the most strictly regulated in Victoria. Penalties of 2 years imprisonment or a fine of over \$47,000 for being caught in possession of one will apply.

Under the law changes, machetes will be classified as a prohibited weapon from 1 September 2025. If people wish to own a machete for an allowed purpose such as agriculture, they will need to apply for an exemption. These exemptions will be worked through with industry.

To get these weapons off the streets safely, an amnesty will run from 1 September to 30 November. During that time, people will be able to safely dispose of their knives without committing a crime.

They will be able to do this using secure bins in safe locations, which are likely to include an outdoor area at select police stations. These bins will start opening on 1 September.

Police will also have the power to search an area for weapons for longer under the changes to the law.

The Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police can declare a location like a train station or a shopping centre a designated search area so police can search people for weapons like knives without a warrant and seize items.

Before the changes a place could only be declared a designated search area for 12 hours at a time – now the Chief Commissioner can declare a location a designated search area for up to six months.

This allows police to act on intelligence about potential violence and weapons for much longer – and it gives people confidence that police will have the powers they need, when they need them, in the busy places they meet, commute, shop and spend time.

The Premier last week called on major retailers to stop placing stock orders for machetes and Victoria will also write to the Federal Government about action on machete imports at the border and exploring a national ban on machetes.

These extra powers build on Victoria's *Tough Bail Laws*, which will target repeat high-risk offenders, jolt the system, and deliver consequences for breaking the rules.

As part of our first Tough Bail Bill, there will be tougher bail tests for many serious and high-risk offences.

The Government can confirm these offences will include the following knife crimes: committing an offence involving controlled weapons (including machete violence), prohibited weapons offences, and offensive weapons offences.

This includes the use of every day implements fashioned into or used as weapons, such as baseball bats, kitchen knives and shivs.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Police Anthony Carbines

"We'll always give police what they need to keep Victorians safe and the passing of this bill today will immediately help Victoria Police to get more knives off our streets."

Media contact: Jennifer Aitken 0467 745 963 | jennifer.aitken@minstaff.vic.gov.au

“This is Australia’s first machete ban, and we agree with police that it must be done once and done right. It took the UK 18 months – we can do it in six.”