

CRIMES (HIJACKINGS AND OTHER OFFENCES) BILL.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM.

Clause 1 contains provisions in common form relating to the short title, definition of the *Crimes Act* 1958 as the Principal Act and proclamation of the commencement of the Act.

Clause 2 proposes the insertion of new sections 35A and 35B in the Principal Act, to deal with demands made by one person of another, coupled with certain threats.

Proposed section 35A creates the offence, punishable by imprisonment not exceeding ten years, of making a demand with a threat to destroy or endanger the safety of a building, aircraft, vessel, motor vehicle or railway engine or carriage.

Proposed section 35B creates the offence, punishable by imprisonment not exceeding twenty years, of making a demand with a threat to kill or injure any person (other than the offender or his accomplice) or with a threat in circumstances where, if the threat were carried out, the life of any person (other than the offender or his accomplice) would be endangered.

Clause 3 proposes the insertion of a new section 36A in the Principal Act, to create the offence, punishable by imprisonment not exceeding ten years, of threatening injury to any person or property with intent to—

- (a) prevent or hinder the lawful apprehension or detention of the offender or any other person ; or
- (b) prevent or hinder the lawful investigation by a member of the police force of any act or circumstance which reasonably calls for investigation by him.

Clause 4 effects three amendments of the Principal Act—

1. It removes section 246F from Subdivision (15A) and creates a new subdivision (15B) *False Statements* in Division 3 of Part I.
2. It re-enacts section 246F, which creates the misdemeanour, punishable by imprisonment not exceeding two years, of making false statements to the effect that there has been or there is to be a plan, proposal, attempt, conspiracy or threat to take control of an aircraft by force or violence, to destroy or endanger the safety of an aircraft or to kill or injure persons on board an aircraft.

The re-enactment extends the operation of the existing section 246F to false statements relating to any building, vessel, motor vehicle or railway engine or carriage.

3. It amends the table in section 1 of the Principal Act to include the new Subdivision (15B), which will comprise section 246F.