

19/469 Crimes (Protection of Police and Others) Amendment Bill 2019 (relates to 19/209 Crimes (Protection of Police, Firefighters and Paramedics) Amendment Bill 2019 – agreement to introduce)

Summary of Impacts

The Crimes (Protection of Police and Others) Amendment Bill 2019 (the Bill) will create a new offence for assaulting a police officer, firefighter or paramedic. The purpose is to address concerns about the frequency and severity of assaults against police, firefighters and paramedics in the ACT and recognise these workers' special occupational vulnerability as providers of important public services.

The Bill will also create new offences for driving at police officers and their vehicles. This will help to support the protection of police officers while executing their duties on ACT roads.

Key to impacts: Red – negative, blue - neutral and green - positive.

Social

Justice and rights

- Assaults against police, firefighters and paramedics represent offences against public order and the established institutions that support and protect the community.
- Police officers, firefighters and paramedics also have a special occupational vulnerability when executing duties on our roads, placing themselves in harm's way in service to the community. They have a special occupational vulnerability as first responders and providers of important emergency public services on behalf of the community.
- The creation of new offences for assaults against police, firefighters and paramedics, and for driving at and ramming police officers and their vehicles, is a strong statement by the ACT Government that this type of conduct is unacceptable. These changes will support better outcomes for the community, including those workers who help make Canberra a safe place to live, work and visit.

Economic

Nil impact.

Environmental

Nil impact.