



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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DRINK DRIVERS ON NOTICE AFTER SENTENCING REPORT

Good behaviour licences should be considered for those who are found guilty of drink-driving but receive no other penalty, according to a report by the NSW Sentencing Council.

The Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, said the report on good behaviour bonds and non-conviction orders, released today, found the courts were coming down harder than ever on drunk drivers but magistrates needed more flexibility in sentencing.

“Good behaviour licence conditions could be imposed on drink drivers in cases where not recording a conviction would be too lenient, but a conviction with a disqualification would be too severe,” Mr Smith said.

“This is a proposal squarely aimed at those drink drivers currently walking away from court with no conviction and their licenses intact. This report puts drink drivers on notice and its recommendations will be closely considered by the Government.”

Currently, those convicted of drink driving can be disqualified from getting behind the wheel for up to five years and be jailed for up to two years, while those given a “Section 10” retain their licence and receive no additional restrictions.

Mr Smith said the Sentencing Council believed good behaviour licences could reduce the number of Section 10s in drink-driving cases.

However, the report notes mid-range drink drivers, who can be jailed for up to nine months for a first offence, would rarely qualify for good behaviour licences.

The Attorney General said Transport NSW and the police would be involved in assessing the viability of the proposal and that he welcomed community input.

Mr Smith said the report served as a timely reminder to motorists.

“One sure way to avoid a conviction is to avoid driving altogether after consuming alcohol,” Mr Smith said.

“The Sentencing Council report demonstrates that the courts are coming down harder on drunk drivers and a conviction against your name could have a serious impact on your employment prospects.”