

Extracts from the Crimes Act 1914-1960 of the Commonwealth of Australia:-

**Treason.**

24.—(1.) A person who—

- (a) kills the Sovereign, does the Sovereign any bodily harm tending to the death or destruction of the Sovereign or maims, wounds, imprisons or restrains the Sovereign;
  - (b) kills the eldest son and heir apparent, or the Queen Consort, of the Sovereign;
  - (c) levies war, or does any act preparatory to levying war, against the Commonwealth;
  - (d) assists by any means whatever, with intent to assist, an enemy—
    - (i) at war with the Commonwealth, whether or not the existence of a state of war has been declared; and
    - (ii) specified by proclamation made for the purpose of this paragraph to be an enemy at war with the Commonwealth;
  - (e) instigates a foreigner to make an armed invasion of the Commonwealth or any Territory not forming part of the Commonwealth; or
  - (f) forms an intention to do any act referred to in a preceding paragraph of this sub-section and manifests that intention by an overt act,
- shall be guilty of an indictable offence, called **treason**, and liable to the punishment of death.”

24.—(2.) A person who—

- (a) receives or assists another person who is, to his knowledge, guilty of **treason** in order to enable him to escape punishment; or
  - (b) knowing that a person intends to commit **treason**, does not give information thereof with all reasonable despatch to a constable or use other reasonable endeavours to prevent the commission of the offence,
- shall be guilty of an indictable offence.

Penalty: Imprisonment for life.

24.—(3.) On the trial of a person charged with **treason** on the ground that he formed an intention to do an act referred to in paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e) of sub-section (1.) of this section and manifested that intention by an overt act, evidence of the overt act shall not be admitted unless the overt act was alleged in the indictment.

24.—(4.) A sentence of death passed by a court in pursuance of this section shall be carried into execution in accordance with the law of the State or Territory in which the offender is convicted or, if the law of that State or Territory does not provide for the execution of sentences of death, in accordance with the directions of the Governor-General.

## Treachery.

24AA.—(1.) A person shall not—

- (a) do any act or thing with intent—
  - (i) to overthrow the Constitution of the Commonwealth by **revolution** or **sabotage**;
  - (ii) to overthrow by force or violence the established government of the Commonwealth, of a State or of a proclaimed country; or
- (b) within the Commonwealth or a Territory not forming part of the Commonwealth—
  - (i) levy war, or do any act preparatory to levying war, against a proclaimed country;
  - (ii) assist by any means whatever, with intent to assist, a proclaimed enemy of a proclaimed country; or
  - (iii) instigate a person to make an armed invasion of a proclaimed country.

24AA.—(2.) Where a part of the Defence Force is on, or is proceeding to, service outside the Commonwealth and the Territories not forming part of the Commonwealth, a person shall not assist by any means whatever, with intent to assist, any persons—

- (a) against whom that part of the Defence Force, or a force that includes that part of the Defence Force, is or is likely to be opposed; and
- (b) who are specified, or included in a class of persons specified, by proclamation to be persons in respect of whom, or a class of persons in respect of which, this sub-section applies.

24AA.—(3.) A person who contravenes a provision of this section shall be guilty of an indictable offence, called **treachery**.  
Penalty: Imprisonment for life.

(4.) In this section—

'proclaimed country' means a country specified by proclamation made for the purpose of this definition to be a proclaimed country, and includes any colony, overseas territory or protectorate of that country, or any territory for the international relations of which that country is responsible, which is a colony, overseas territory, protectorate or territory to which the proclamation is expressed to extend;

'proclaimed enemy', in relation to a proclaimed country, means an enemy—

- (a) of and at war with a proclaimed country, whether or not the existence of a state of war has been declared; and
- (b) specified by proclamation made for the purpose of this definition to be an enemy of and at war with that country.

(5.) A proclamation shall not be made for the purpose of the definition of 'proclaimed country', or for the purpose of the definition of 'proclaimed enemy', in the last preceding sub-section except in pursuance of a resolution of each House of the Parliament passed within the preceding period of twenty-one days.

## **Sabotage.**

24AB.—(1.) In this section—**Sabotage.**

**'act of sabotage'** means the destruction, damage or impairment, for a purpose intended to be prejudicial to the safety or defence of the Commonwealth, of any article—

- (a) that is used, or intended to be used, by the Defence Force or a part of the Defence Force or is used, or intended to be used in the Commonwealth or a Territory not forming part of the Commonwealth, by the armed forces of a country that is a proclaimed country for the purposes of the last preceding section;
- (b) that is used, or intended to be used, in or in connexion with the manufacture, investigation or testing of weapons or apparatus of war;
- (c) that is used, or intended to be used, for any purpose that relates directly to the defence of the Commonwealth; or
- (d) that is in or forms part of a place that is a prohibited place within the meaning of section eighty of this Act;

**'article'** includes any thing, substance or material.

(2.) A person who—

- (a) carries out an **act of sabotage**; or
  - (b) has in his possession any article that is capable of use, and which he intends for use, in carrying out an **act of sabotage**,
- shall be guilty of an indictable offence.

Penalty: Imprisonment for fifteen years.

## **Oxford Dictionary:-**

**treason** *n.* the crime of betraying one's country, especially by attempting to kill or overthrow the sovereign or government

**sabotage** *v.* deliberately destroy or obstruct, especially for **political** or military **advantage**

**indictable** *adj.* (of an offence) rendering a person who commits it liable to be charged with a serious crime that warrants a trial by jury

**"Ignorance of the law is NO excuse"**, particularly with respect to any person—

who assists in making laws, e.g. Governor-Generals, Governors of a State, and Members of Political Parties, each under their own Party's Constitution and policies;

who acts judicially, e.g. justices, judges, magistrates, justices of the peace, police;

who is in other positions of authority and control over other persons;

who is in other positions of trust and influence over other persons, including church leaders.