



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 5 – LEGAL AFFAIRS

INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE FIREARMS AND WEAPONS LEGISLATION (CRIMINAL USE) BILL 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27 April 2021

The parliamentary committee examining the provisions of the [Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment \(Criminal Use\) Bill 2020](#) tabled its report today, making nine recommendations for the Legislative Council to consider when it debates the bill.

The bill proposes new offences and measures to curtail the unauthorised manufacture of illicit firearms and firearm parts, especially utilising new technologies. While the committee supports the intentions of the bill, in practice it is poorly drafted and contains many flaws. The committee has therefore recommended that the bill not be passed in its current form, and that it only pass if it is substantially amended.

Other recommendations contained in the report address key concerns identified by stakeholders, including issues with the broad operation and strict liability of the offence, the proportionality of the penalty, lack of protections for children from Firearms Prohibition Orders and expansion of police search powers.

The Chair of the committee, the Hon Robert Borsak MLC, said: 'The Firearms and Weapons and Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020 has been thoroughly scrutinised during the inquiry and the committee's recommendations are essential to ensure that the bill meets its objectives, which is to target organised and serious crime, while safeguarding against unintended consequences for legal, law abiding firearm owners.'

The Chair continued, 'The committee has carefully considered the written submissions and evidence, noting that the majority of stakeholders had serious concerns with the initial draft of the bill. We recommend that the Legislative Council take note of these concerns and action our measured recommendations when considering the bill.'

The committee's report and other inquiry documents can be found on the committee's [website](#).

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Robert Borsak MLC, on 9230 2573.