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

Name: Mr Andrew Hooke

Date Received: 30 April 2020

Re: Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020 The goal of this proposal is to make it harder to get a "prohibited firearm". This done by blocking the construction process, by targeting "firearm precursors" that make a firearm part, which could then go on the make a "prohibited firearm". The problem with this goal is that many of the parts that go into a "prohibited firearm" are the same parts that go into a non-prohibited firearm. Some examples of common parts are: triggers, sights, magazines, barrels, and stocks. That's just the parts that obviously belong in a firearm. Firearms also contain parts that are not obviously firearm related like plates, rods, screws, springs, washers, nuts and bolts. That list isn't meant to be exhaustive. No doubt there are gunsmiths out there who could list hundreds if not thousands of parts that are common between prohibited and non-prohibited firearms. To modify the definition of a "firearm precursor" in this proposal to include all of these exceptions would be to add hundreds of extra pages, which is clearly unworkable. The implementation of this proposal without modification would have the effect of making all firearms, regardless, prohibited. And this wouldn't just make all firearms prohibited, but anything that contained things like springs, screws, nut and bolts. It's absurd to say it, but literally all the machines around us, that aren't even firearm related, would be prohibited because they happened to contain parts that are also used in prohibited firearms. In practical terms there is no real way to determine if a part is going to be used in a prohibited firearm or not until the firearm is actually fully assembled. We already have laws in place to deal with that case and so we have no need to create any new laws. There is no way to meaningfully salvage this proposal and it should simply be dropped.