

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

## **Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020**

I am writing to you because as a licensed firearm owner and competition shooter, I have great concerns over the proposed above Bill, currently before the NSW Parliament.

The intent of this Bill is clearly an attempt control the illegal manufacture of firearms and firearm parts by criminals, that I agree with and would be a good outcome for the community.

However, the provisions of this Bill are so wide ranging and so open to police misinterpretation that it threatens all licensed firearms owners and other persons who, simply because they have everyday tools or equipment which could be used to make firearm parts may be swept up by it. The Bill does not differentiate between licensed firearm owners and criminals. The Bill entitles police to act on suspicion of an offence, even where there is no actual proof.

The Government has not shown that the problem of illegal firearm and firearm parts manufacture is so great as to justify this Bill in this harsh form.

I simply ask that, if you have not already made yourself familiar with this Bill, please do so.

I have listed below some suggestions below to this Bill that, hopefully, be shown to be necessary, and a more measured response to the problem the Bill seeks to address.

- Remove the presumption that persons who rent premises, supply finance, materials or equipment are actually involved in the manufacture of firearms or firearm parts. (section 51 J (2) (a)-(c))
- Remove the presumption that materials and equipment are *firearm precursors*, where police have no evidence of firearms or firearms parts being manufactured (Sections 51 J (2) (d))
- Decisions to confiscate firearms and equipment suspected of being *firearms precursors*, should only be made by senior ranked knowledgeable officers, and only after careful consideration and confirmation.
- Remove Section 51 K (2) which breaches common law.
- Add a requirement that internal reviews of decisions involving firearm matters have to be completed within a reasonable, defined period of time.
- Amend the Bill to make it perfectly clear that (a) the mere possession of everyday items, tools and equipment and publicly published information and instructional materials in any form, by licensed firearm owners is not an offence under this Bill; (b) licensed firearm owners who have a legitimate need to make a part or minor modification to a registered firearm, or a firearm that is not required to be registered under the Act, are not captured by this bill.

Yours faithfully,