

Submission
No 52

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

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Several very important issues have arisen with the proposed introduction of the draft legislation currently proposed. I feel that these changes will unjustly entrap innocent persons due to a number of unforeseen reasons.

These reasons could be as simple as ownership of workshop machinery and tooling or having personal technical interest in design and fabrication techniques, metallurgy or basic engineering and yet with not even engaged in manufacture of illegal weapons these same persons are at a real risk of unjust incarceration.

We would be putting before the courts and possibly jailing innocent persons because of what they might do. Is this how we want New South Wales to be? A police state where you are guilty because of something you might do in the future? You might have no intention or ever do anything along the lines of manufacture parts and components for firearms however with this proposed legislation you are now to be deemed a criminal and have the associated record to go with it which would have a flow on effect with employment.

In Australia since 2008, motor vehicles have been the cause of 16,397 deaths (Source, Australian road deaths database) and have caused an unknown number of injuries as quote 'Australia does not presently have the systems in place to reliably measure national indicators of serious (non-fatal and disabling) injuries from road crashes' (Source: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications). It is very easily in the hundreds of thousands.

Here we have Australia's largest killers outside of natural death with repairs and modifications to safety aspects of cars including brakes, steering and suspension being carried out by unlicensed mechanics in backyard workshops and areas and no attention is paid to this issue. Any Australian can go down to the local auto shop or look online and buy parts that can turn their motor vehicle into a dangerous and unsafe item yet no attention is paid to this issue.

At the same time we have law abiding firearms owners going about their own business and hobby and making small non life threatening adjustments and modifications to their legal and registered firearms and being persecuted and vilified for this. These modifications include but are not limited to adjusting a factory trigger weight to one more suitable, replacing a factory trigger mechanism with an aftermarket unit, replacing sights on a firearm with new or better units, replacing stocks and furniture on a firearm to better suit its intended application and so on. I strongly feel that unless someone has actually broken the law they are innocent.

In closing, looking at technical information does not make you a criminal, it makes you curious. It shows an interest in your chosen hobby or profession.

The laws that we have at present are sufficient to ensure that our society is safe and we as a population do not need more useless and unworkable laws that target the wrong people.

Thank you.