

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

The intent of this Bill is to try to control the illegal manufacture of firearms and firearm parts by criminals, which I support. However, the provisions of this Bill are so wide-ranging and so open to police misinterpretation that it threatens all licensed firearm owners and other persons who because they have tools 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 the police to act on suspicion of an offence, even where there is no actual proof. The Government has not shown that the problem of an illegal firearm and firearm parts manufacture is so great as to justify such a Draconian Bill. Minister Elliott's Speech in Parliament on this Proposal links illegal firearms manufacture with the Lindt Cafe disaster - which is a total distortion. That man used an unregistered, prohibited firearm that was also illegally shortened. That does not constitute manufacture in any way. The Proposal severally mentions Outlaw Biker Clubs as a potential target of the Bill, but the Bill is so poorly worded that it does not separate LEGAL firearm modification/repair/improvement by legal owners FROM ILLEGAL/Prohibited Firearms manufacture. Further: The idea of pre-cursor firearm parts makes EVERY hand and machine tool in existence a precursor - and while this is recognised in the Speech, there are NO PROTECTIONS under the proposal for anyone who the Police might choose to prosecute! Because it all falls under "interpretation", there are also no protections from false accusation or from deliberate intent to harm any person. To make instant criminals of Law Abiding Firearms Owners who wish to customise or repair their own firearms is unacceptable and unjust and yet this proposed Alteration of the Firearms Laws will do this - either accidentally by the terrible wording of the Bill - or by deliberate intent; which I sincerely hope is not the case. Many are asking why is this being brought to Parliament during this Covid19 pandemic - when there is so much less opportunity for an honest and thorough review and debate? As a member of the law enforcement community and a licenced firearms owner, I am concerned about how this could affect my career. I am not alone, and they're a quite a large number of both civil servants and uniformed members working in law enforcement, intelligence, military etc that contribute to this nation's security that will be under this bill effectively be prone to be labelled criminals by inexperienced police officers.