

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

**Organisation:** Macleay Valley Regional Shooting Complex  
**Date Received:** 23 July 2020

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Macleay Valley Regional Shooting Complex Inc. (MVRSC)

On behalf of the MVRSC (and as President) I would like to voice the views of the clubs which make up the complex, and their individual members, on the Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020.

We are a small regional shooting complex of approximately 400 members, who are predominately from the local community and being diverse in nature of both male and female, young and old, tradesman, farmers, police officers, correctional services officers, pensioners, local business owners etc. We are also of many different creeds, Aboriginal, Asian, European etc. The one thing these people have in common is that they are all law-abiding citizens who have a love for the shooting sports, both target and feral animal control (as their firearms licenses permit).

As a group in total there would not be one member who would not have what would be classed as a “precursor” to manufacture a firearm or firearm part, even though they are an everyday tool that any handy person or hobbyist would have - be it a drill, hacksaw, file, or even a simple pencil and paper - which could be considered to be used to draw plans to manufacture a firearm or firearm part. If a legal firearm owner has an exploded view of a firearm it does not mean he is going to manufacture a firearm anymore than having a manual for a motor car would mean that they are going to build one. We feel this proposed Bill is discriminatory at best and ludicrous at worst and shows no thought or insight into the shooting sport whatsoever. If it is passed does it mean every hardware store, steel merchant, stationary shop, etc. needs to be a gunsmith - otherwise they could be accessories before the fact? Indeed, if you are going to enforce steel ownership (which will pass all the way back to BHP mining the iron ore), are they also to be taken to task for accessory before the fact? You may say that is ridiculous, but all said and done that’s the way that your Bill is presented.

In addition, by the inclusion of the word “precursor” in the proposed act, we feel that by proposing that police have search and seizure powers without probable cause, as well as the removal for the right to remain silent, is plain victimization of law abiding firearm owners and an abuse of power that can and will be used by over zealous police officers.

In conclusion, we understand that there needs to be amendments to certain bills to keep in step with our ever changing world, but would hope that commonsense prevails in this and that people with experience and expertise in the firearm sports are sought and that their highly valued input be considered. Firearm owners are the only group of people that have to be completely law abiding, apart from some minor traffic offences. The same cannot be said about politicians, teachers, doctors, police officers etc. The list goes on...

Finally, the point that you all seem to miss is that criminals DO NOT obey the law. It does not matter what you put in place they will continue to disobey the laws - that is why they are criminals. In saying that, it is obvious who this bill is directed at: law abiding citizens who wish to acquire and/or use firearms for legitimate reasons.

Yours faithfully

On behalf of the Executive Committee and club members  
Macleay Valley Regional Shooting Complex