

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020

Unfortunately we have proposed legislation with the intent of curtailing “Illegal Firearm Activities” of a specific technical nature, which lacks appropriate “Technical Terminology” and will encompass and impinge on activities conducted by Licensed and law abiding firearm owners.

I base this advice having spent 46 years in mechanical manufacturing industries, including, commercial, military and space industries. It is imperative that the intent of the legislation is achieved without interference to law abiding firearm owners.

I wish to highlight three primary areas of concern:

I am required to service and maintain my legally held firearms with regard to replacing seals (air pistol) and springs, etc as a means to maintain them in a safe condition thus having spare parts on hand however this does not imply that I am undertaking “firearms manufacture” as such.

Additionally “modifications” to sights, grips, stocks, recoil pads, etc. are legitimate activities and should not be impacted by this proposed legislation.

1) 51 J. “Firearm Precursor”

The words “substance, material, etc.” would include many base materials currently in most Australian home garages or garden sheds.

Ie, Steel, Aluminum materials, tubes, springs, screws, O ring seals, roll pins, etc.

Unless these materials have “been proven to be used in an illegal manner” they are no more than common items in many cases used in household repair and or maintenance.

It is just as preposterous to involve “Bunnings” in the sale and supply of these illegal items as it is the legal firearm owner as purchaser.

2) 51J (3)

An attempt is made here to describe manufacturing processes which includes the processes of “casting and moulds” which of course would impact on the legitimate sports shooting discipline of Muzzle Loading and more generally ammunition reloading.

Further wording refers to “milling” which on its own relates to the production of flat or contoured surfaces and if this is to be included it would seem that other manufacturing processes should be detailed.

ie, Cylindrical surfaces, (turning, cylindrical grinding),
Flat surfaces, (shaping, milling, surface grinding, lapping)
Precision hole production, (drilling, reaming, lapping, etc)
Screw thread production, (taps, dies, thread forming, etc)

Many Australian shooters would have access to a “hobby lathe”, drill press, drill bits, taps and dies, etc, however these cannot be considered a suitable level of technology for “firearms production” and differentiation needs to be made between these and modern computer controlled production machine tools.

51(K)

It would appear the “Intent” of this clause of the Legislation is in reference to CAD and other design files used in CNC or Rapid Prototyping Technologies.

However many technical firearm books contain individual part, assembly and or exploded drawings of firearm components, etc. These “schematics” should not be confused with detailed dimensioned, toleranced drawings used in component manufacture.

Perhaps liaison with specialist technical staff at the firearms manufacturing facility at Lithgow where more detailed and appropriate wording might be developed to deliver the “Object” of the Bill without impacting on both sport shooters and even the general public as a result.

I trust the above may assist in the development of targeted legislation aimed at the illegal activities undertaken by criminal elements of our society with appropriate penalties at conviction.

Yours faithfully