

Submission  
No 105

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

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Partially  
Confidential

Attempting to suppress the knowledge of how to make firearms and/or the means to do so is a fool's errand. In all the panic about 3d printed guns an important fact has been overlooked: Guns are quite literally medieval technology. While large manufacturers like Ruger and CZ may use CNC milling machines, they are far from necessary. Indeed amateur manufacture of firearms is a common hobby amongst shooters in other countries where the practice is legal, such as in our neighbour New Zealand.

I offer an example of a common first homemade firearm known as a "black pipe shotgun" or a "slam-fire shotgun". The materials and tools needed are all available at Bunnings were one so inclined, though I discourage anyone from actually doing so since it's not legal in this state. One takes a length of steel water pipe sized so a shotgun shell will fit inside while being prevented by the rim from falling through. Then one takes a pipe of slightly larger internal diameter than the external diameter of the first pipe. The second pipe should be threaded at one end. One epoxies a ball bearing or similar to the centre of a threaded pipe cap, and fits the cap to the pipe, epoxying it in place. Finally one attaches by means of a pipe clamp a wooden grip to the capped pipe to serve as a shoulder stock. At this stage the gun is complete. To load it one inserts a shotgun shell into the end of the first pipe, and inserts it loosely into the large pipe. Now the gun finally looks like a gun, with the first pipe being the barrel, and the second being the receiver and breechblock. To fire, shoulder the gun and sharply smack the barrel towards the shoulder, ensuring it travels at least an inch or two. The ball bearing will strike the primer and discharge the shot down the barrel, just as in a commercially made firearm. Unlike the 3d printed gun everyone is so petrified of, this one will fire a 12 gauge shell, without injury to the shooter, and it will be reusable many times. To underline the point I offer this video on Youtube demonstrating just how easy all this is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQsp7vz4Cyc>

Add a stick welder and a drill and one can make a functional revolver as demonstrated here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2W\\_Q4x9Vv94](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2W_Q4x9Vv94)

But why stop there? A full on machine gun is not especially difficult to make out of little more than sheet metal, bolts, and a jigsaw, as P.A Luty demonstrated. The UK's Crown Prosecution Service was forced to prove it worked before they could convict him of making it. Widely respected firearms historian Ian McCollum (affectionately known as "Gun Jesus") details it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIhGCRIQnCA>

The famed Owen gun was made in much the same way, by a teenager in a shed. Except back then this country saw fit to call him a war hero and put his design into full scale production. It served our servicemen faithfully in WW2 through to the Vietnam War.

There are no special gun making tools. There is no need for CNC mills or hammer forging machines. Even lathes and manual mills are not required. Simple hand tools are more than sufficient, and any old crap laying about will suffice for materials if one is not picky about cosmetic appearances. Even rifling can be achieved with a length of PVC pipe, a wooden dowel, a Dremel, a screw, a bit of broken off hacksaw blade, and some patience.

Perhaps you think restricting access to ammunition will prevent people from using such homemade firearms? It won't. While smokeless powder is too hard to make safely at home, black powder is not. It's just charcoal and potassium nitrate. Anyone with a barbeque and an old paint

tin can make quality charcoal. Potassium nitrate is readily extracted from urine. Just filter it through potash (also readily made in the barbeque), evaporate out the water and collect the crystals. While sulfur is part of the traditional recipe, it isn't required. Its function is to lower ignition temperatures, which was important in the early days when matchlocks predominated. Sulfur has been retained as part of the commercial recipe first out of a cargo-cult understanding of gunpowder, and now for the sake of tradition. The omission of sulfur from the mix also removes much of the smoke and smell typically associated with black powder, along with eliminating the need to procure sulfur. Primers are more difficult and in the 19th century their restriction would have been a significant stumbling block to the use of anything more advanced than a flintlock. Now however we have ready access to lithium batteries. All a primer does is provide a spark. Replace the impact sensitive explosive in standard primers with a priming charge of black powder and use the firing pin to short an electrical circuit inside the primer cap and the same end will be achieved. A trip to Jaycar will supply all the necessary parts. Around twenty years ago Remington did something similar, and it worked well, but failed in the marketplace because American shooters don't like electronics in their guns. Also it cost more than a standard rifle.

So what will the proposed bill ultimately achieve? It won't be to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals. No, instead what will happen is the contents of the average man's shed will become "firearms manufacture precursors" and the majority of the state will become criminals. The computer software and plans provisions will criminalise everyone who uses a web browser to visit Youtube. But it gets worse than that because thanks to Section 51J anyone who has a tenant who owns an angle grinder a.k.a "firearms milling equipment", is guilty of "taking part in unauthorised manufacture of firearms", as is his bank for providing the mortgage, the loans officer who approved the loan, the teller who greeted him, and his mum for fronting the deposit. Meanwhile Section 51K means everyone's computers will be open to any random police officer to rummage through on suspicion of having visited the world's most prolific source of firearms plans, a.k.a Youtube.

In conclusion, if you do this damn fool thing, there won't be a man, woman or child in New South Wales who won't be a criminal, and that includes you lot on this committee.