

**Submission
No 130**

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

Name: Mr Henry James Anderson

Date Received: 4 August 2020

Dear Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. As a law-abiding firearms licence holder I support legislation that helps to prevent the criminal use of firearms.

Unfortunately, the current legislation draft has several deficiencies that are likely to cause unintended consequences. Section 51J establishes the offence of “take part in the manufacture a firearm or firearm part”. Subsequent paragraphs explain the meanings of “Take Part” and what constitutes a “precursor” but they do not determine what constitutes “manufacture”. Does the machining of a handgun slide to adapt different sights constitute manufacture? Does the threading of a barrel or the machining of sight mounting surface constitute manufacture? Does the alteration of a stock to allow the fitting of a cheek support or a bipod constitute manufacture? If I alter or adapt a component that allows me to fit, for example, a modern telescopic sight to an older firearm is that illegal “manufacture of a part” under this proposed legislation? If I modify a screw to secure the sight or grip to my firearm, because an original component is not available, am I guilty of illegal “manufacture of a part” under this proposed legislation?

These are common options on legal firearms as used for sport and target competition and are not currently illegal, but could be under this proposed legislation. As written this could easily lead to misinterpretation.

Section 51J, (2), (d) establishes the intent that “the person possesses a firearm precursor for the purposes of manufacturing a firearm or firearm part” but does not differentiate between legal (by licenced firearms users, as mentioned above) or illegal possession. As mentioned above, there are many alterations/additions/parts/substances that are commonly used legally on firearms by licenced users and pose no increased public risk.