

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Submission

Provisions of the Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020

Dear Chairperson,

I wish to make a submission on

Provisions of the Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020.

The scope of this proposal is too broad in its approach. If enacted unamended, the illegal firearm manufacturer will no longer be the sole focus of police task forces. Much of the police focus will shift to policing persons who are now law-abiding Firearm owners (LAFO's) , but by virtue of the new regulation , who are deemed to have precursors for manufacture of firearms.

Precursors

These precursors so deemed by the broad scope of this amendment , may include ,mild steel round bar, Mild steel bar, scrap steel, timber working machines, lathes , millers , drilling machines, the list is almost endless.

I wish to draw to the attention of the committee that in many homes and businesses , spares are kept for repairing of machines of non-firearm in nature. Items such as springs screws , washers , pins in some cases have dimensions the same as firearm parts. Universal Application Kits consist of screws springs and roll pins, available from retailers such as REPCO ,and are common in workshops throughout NSW. Each Kit containing hundreds of screws, pins washers or springs If charged under the proposed amended Bill, most of those in possession, individual or company, would mount a vigorous defence, and be successful ,but at massive cost. Ruinous cost in fact.

Current commonly available guidelines NSW FAR

https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/133133/Firearms_Users_Guide.pdf

I would now wish to raise to the attention of your committee the present culture of firearm owners in regard to maintaining and adjustment of legal registered firearms.

Firstly, I wish to draw attention to "FIREARMS (LONGARMS) USERS GUIDE, published and distributed by the NSW Firearm Registry

R I G H T S , W R O N G S A N D R E S P O N S I B I L I T I E S".

This document is not only a well-regarded Text for firearm applicants , it is also the code of behaviour for all Licenced Firearm Owners" (LAFO's)I would ask that members of your committee read this document , it gives the directions of NSW Police on correct behaviours and restrictions to LAFO's .It includes the responsibilities of maintaining a firearm in safe condition and what may be done to a firearm in the event of modifications. For your Committee members who are not LAFO's , I am sure will benefit from knowledge on the controls already on Firearm owners . Perhaps be reassured by it.

Why do L.A.F.O's repair and service their Firearms

It may be asked why L.A.F.O's perform maintenance and minor modifications on their registered Firearms. There is some History to the matter. The last Gunsmith Course Run by a T.A.F.E. college was at Townsville Queensland, it was shut down in the late 1990's .

This has resulted in a shortage of Gun Smiths throughout Australia and N.S.W. This has resulted in long waiting times for firearm repairs , including those of basic nature , say repair to a wood stock, touch up of metal finish (Gun Bluing), fitting of sights ,trigger change out or adjustment, recrowning of a Muzzle, accurizing a rifle by simple compound bedding. . This is a small sample of tasks.

The firearm retail side of the industry has recognized , this need, and products and kits are sold for the L.A.F.O to carry out these tasks. Along with these basic products for the more advanced persons, head space gauges and chamber reamers to ensure correct chamber clearance paramount in firearm safety. The majority of L.A.F.O's would carry many of these products at home .Under the propose amendment these would be defined as pre cursors to manufacture.

When in fact they are maintenance tooling

A common example would be a L.A.F.O , be it farmer or sportsperson may have an old Registered firearm that has a sight fall or be knocked off and lost. The L.A.F.O using a flat metal file , shapes a replacement out of a scrap of mild steel. Is this to be the new focus of policing in N.S.W, by declaring such actions to be deemed as Firearm manufacture.

Plans and drawings

Plans and drawings of firearms, I draw the committee's attention to the fact that most Firearms when sold new and frequently in used Gun sales , the firearm will come with diagrams of the parts and assembly of the firearm. This greatly assists the owner in safe care and use of the firearm. Possession of such items under the proposed amendment may lead to a case to answer for the L.A.F.O. Or in fact any citizen of N.S.W. Various publications on Military History and "Coffey Table Books " contain details of firearm components and assemblies. Quite possibly under the amendment, may be considered Plans /Diagrams .

If such "tools" are given to Crown Prosecutors ,one cannot expect them not to be used

Crude Illegal manufacture using benign precursors

An example of a dangerous and manufactured illegal firearm I have heard about has been made from sewer or Rainwater pipe ranging from 50MM to 150 MM. I believe an end was glued on, one end cap fitted ,a flint gun glued in the end , a projectile loaded , in some cases an orange or a uncooked chicken carcass . Aerosol sprayed into the breach , the projectile sent many yards , and have the capacity to kill. The pre cursors being , Sewer or PVC pipe, end piece , aerosol , flint gun , perhaps an orange or a chicken carcass (dependant on PVC pipe diameter) .

I include this example not to be flippant. But to demonstrate the complexity of pre cursors.

In many homes or sheds such items are not uncommon.

This amendment bill should not be recommended.

Submitted by