

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 10 August 2020

Partially
Confidential

Dear Ministers,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the “Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020”.

As a law-abiding firearms licence holder I support legislation that helps to prevent the criminal use of firearms, however, I believe that the provisions of this Bill do NOT differentiate between licensed firearm owners and criminals or illegal possession.

As it stands the Bill creates a serious threat to all licensed firearm owners and other persons. People who own and possess everyday tools which could now be perceived as firearm precursors used to make firearm parts, could be negatively impacted by this Bill.

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 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?

All of these practices listed above could be reasonably required to be undertaken by law abiding firearms owners and cause no concern to public risk.

The current draft entitles police to act on suspicion of an offence or without probable cause. The provisions are uncertain and open to police misinterpretation and abuse of power.

Yours Sincerely,