

**Submission  
No 198**

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

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The proposed amendments to firearms laws regarding the manufacture of parts or the possession of precursors to firearms parts etc are particularly worrying and stressful to me and many of my friends.

It is not uncommon for individuals to be drawn to firearms for the same reasons they are drawn to vintage machinery, rocketry, equipment restoration and tinkering with technical mechanical devices.

Commonly owned items amongst this demographic are extensive metal working tools and equipment and other technical items.

The proposed laws would make it seem that any individual with such basic items as a hacksaw and a file is at great risk of being accused of owning the necessary items required to produce firearms and or firearm precursors.

And could be accused of such activities on almost baseless grounds by any law enforcement officer.

Further to this the descriptions of what is a firearms precursor is vague and confusing leaving far too much open to interpretation.

As it stands currently, the majority of firearms owners that enjoy or find necessary the need to make a small component or modification to their firearms are more often than not under the belief that as long as they do not produce bolts, magazines, barrels, chambers or other integral components that are the actual gun itself or a component absolutely needed for the operation of a projectile under pressure, that they are within the law.

For example, if a stock needed to be adjusted to suit an individual they would carry that out with no fear of breaking any laws other than not allowing the modification to make the gun too short, and thus illegal.

If a screw was lost, one could be made, would this be a firearm part?

If a mount for a bipod needed to be designed and fitted, would this be illegal?

If a barrel weight was fitted for balancing of a target rifle, would this constitute an illegal activity?

These new proposed laws give me and several of my friends in the shooting community great anxiety and fear for the future of our sport and also an enjoyable pastime involving solving technical problems with mechanisms, ballistics, chemistry, energy, force and a plethora of other interesting avenues.

It would be a great sadness and a travesty to allow such vague sweeping laws to cripple and hinder those who have gone out of their way to be safe and legal in their sport and pastime.

Thank you for your time.

Lewis Clarke.