

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 13 August 2020

Partially
Confidential

Dear Ministers,

I am writing to you as a licensed shooter and Law-abiding firearm owner. I support legislation that helps to prevent the criminal use of firearms.

However I have significant concerns over the "Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020", currently before the NSW Parliament.

Our sport is a lifelong passion that I have witnessed many to take very seriously and responsibly. And maintenance can also be deeply passionate for many shooters who wish to be competent and knowledgeable about their firearms. Knowing your firearms and history is also a major part of safe operation and enjoy full to talk about with fellow shooters.

The listing of "computer software and plans" as precursors could be troublesome. Most firearms owners are students of their development and history. A lot of computer files and books have been

published many of which show drawings or plans to explain the workings of firearms with the primary purpose of educating users on their safe operation and maintenance. A user's manual can be an example of this or a novel cleaning pad which shows your favourite firearms anatomy. Having full information of the method of operation and maintenance of a firearm is critical to using

it correctly and safely. As written this proposed bill could easily lead to misinterpretation.

The proposed bill needs to specify that licenced firearm users who have a legitimate need to make

a part or make minor modifications to a registered firearm, are not captured by this Bill; and the mere possession of everyday items or hardware by licenced firearm users is not an offence under this proposed bill. This proposed legislation could have the unintended effect of making any published material on firearms and their maintenance a "precursor" to illegal activity.

Furthermore, the requirement in section 51K (2) compelling a person to provide assistance or information to police could very well breach the common law right to silence. Every person has the

right to silence and should not be coerced by threat of penalty to make any comment, or to provide

assistance or information to police without first obtaining independent legal advice.

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"

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.

I hope the above comments will help in improving the feedback on this proposed legislation.

Yours sincerely,

Law abiding competitive shooter of 21 years.