

Submission
No 252

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 14 August 2020

Partially
Confidential

Dear Chairperson,

I wish to make a submission regarding the: 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 manufacture will no longer be the sole focus of police task forces. Much of the police focus will shift to policing persons who are currently law-abiding Firearm owners (LAFO's), but by virtue of the new regulation, who are deemed to have precursors for manufacture of firearms.

Some 'Precursors' are deemed by the broad scope of the amendment to be mild steel round bar, mild steel bar, scrap steel, timber working machines, lathes, millers, drilling machines, and far more items that could be misconstrued under the vague new proposal.

I wish to draw the attention of the committee that in many home and businesses, spares are kept for repairing of machines and non-machines of non-firearm in nature. Items such as spring screws, washers, pins (that in some cases have the same dimensions as firearm parts. These things are all available at shops like REPCO and are common in workshops all over NSW.

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 a massive cost.

This new Bill is far too vague and needs to be explicitly clear so that NSW Police can complete their duties, however, not turn LAFO's into criminals, which this Bill has the potential to do. Furthermore, when the NSW Police Minister illegally uses firearms because he was unsure of the law it demonstrates how explicitly clear legislation must be to support both Police and LAFO's.

Thank you for your consideration.