

Submission  
No 255

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 6 August 2020

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Partially  
Confidential

6 August 2020

Attention:  
Sharon Ohnesorge  
Taylah Cauchi  
Tina Higgins

[portfoliocommittee5@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:portfoliocommittee5@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ministers,

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

I am writing to you as a licensed shooter and Law-abiding firearm owner. I have significant concerns over the “Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020”, currently before the NSW Parliament.

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. 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.

Remove the presumption that persons who rent premises, supply finance, materials or equipment are actually involved in the manufacture of firearms or firearm parts.  
(Section (51 J (2) (a)-(c))

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

I understand that there are criminals out there without firearms licences or maybe somehow with firearms licences who are being unlawful, but myself and others as law abiding firearm owners do not want to be tarred with the same brush as unlawful people and the definition of the wording be distorted and applied incorrectly to us. Hence why the Courts are full.

Alterations/additions/parts/substances that are commonly used legally on firearms by licenced users pose no increased public risk.

I have played and participated in a lot of various sports through my years and pistol shooting is a sport I took up with my Dad in the 1980s. My Mum would sit and watch us. We would travel through NSW and meet up with other participants and compete on the weekend. Then out for dinner and a dance a night. Unfortunately, they have passed, but I have great memories. I met my husband through the sport and can continue with what I use to do with my parents.

I can only assume this has possibly come about due to 3D printing. **Anyway, hope you can come to a fair conclusion.**

Kind Regards