**From:** Grace Bird <gracefulbird@internode.on.net>   
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 August 2019 3:33 PM  
**To:** RG - Black Economy <Blackeconomy@treasury.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Submission: Exposure Draft—Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to express my objection to this proposed bill.

This is just another loss of personal freedom and and a further erosion of our rights as Australian citizens.

Economic freedom in how we choose to live is critical in a democracy.

There is no sufficient evidence that the proposed laws would have any material impact on the black economy. An independent 2017 study by Friedrich Schneider, ‘Restricting or Abolishing Cash: An Effective Instrument for Fighting the Shadow Economy, Crime and Terrorism”states that:  
“Cash has a minor influence on the shadow economy, crime and terrorism, but potentially has a major influence on civil liberties.”   
Moreover, Schneider notes that countries such as Sweden, still have sizeable shadow economies even though cash payments have become rare.   
Finally, Schneider concludes:  
“Cash reflects the fundamental relation between citizens or taxpayers and state authorities. Using cash means freedom, independence and personal fulfillment for a citizen who doesn’t want a state intervention when using cash. The “voices” calling for the limitation or abolishment of cash argue that tighter and more comprehensive state control over individuals’ financial flows and funds will effectively fight crime, shadow economy and terrorism. But in my opinion we have weak empirical evidence.”

In the strongest terms I oppose this bill.

Yours sincerely,

Grace E. Bird

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