

SUBMISSION IN REGARD TO PROPOSED NEW LAW

Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019

Hello, I am an Australian citizen who has worked over 45 years for various employers and I am thinking of retirement. I wish to express my concern over the above proposed new law:

1. The purpose of the proposed new law as I understand it is to stop tax leakage and money laundering in the black economy. However there is no supporting documents as to why this law is necessary - how much tax money could be recouped, and the amount of money laundering that may be stopped. Before any such law is proposed, detailed supporting documentation should be provided so that a fair assessment can be made. Without such documentation the Bill's purpose is just pure speculation and some one's opinion which may be correct or may be incorrect.
2. I am concerned that breaking this law will be a criminal offence with severe penalties which in my view is a civil matter especially in regard to making cash transactions over \$10,000 for legitimate purposes.
3. If this law was passed there may be other adverse consequences that detract from our civil liberties in our democratic society. People may be trapped into using electronic money through the banking system. If interest rates turn negative which is happening in other countries, citizens savings in banks would face losses due to negative interest. To avoid these losses people may try to horde cash, or be forced into investing which may be risky. I foresee retiree Australians may not like to risk their life savings by investing, but may have to, if faced with significant losses on their bank savings due to negative interest, and who may not like to hide their cash under the bed. In regard to cash hoarding this may lead to more people using cash for transactions under \$10,000 which potentially defeats the purpose of the Bill.
4. There are sections of the bill which are subject to regulation and a relevant government body might change the exceptions which may pose further restrictions on people such as transactions between citizens that are not business related.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Chilcott

25 Arthur Street, Preston Vic 3072

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