**From:** Maree Dorloff <mareestonor@hotmail.com>   
**Sent:** Monday, 12 August 2019 4:53 PM  
**To:** RG - Black Economy <Blackeconomy@treasury.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Submission - Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019

Dear Treasury

please accept this email as my submission to the Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019.

Just to introduce myself. I am an Australian who cares for my disabled son who has a severe mental illness. I live in rural Tasmania and have had the same house for the last 33 years. I have a Bachelors Degree in General Studies and a Masters Degree in History and believe that education is an important life long endeavour. I also believe in fairness and the ability to do for oneself and family and I believe that this Bill is the exact opposite of what I believe and that it has the potential to change the life of every Australian and place all Australians in severe financial hardship as the real agenda of this Bill is not tax evasion but the converting of Australia into a cashless society.

I absolutely oppose the passing into law of the Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019 for the following reasons:-

Firstly - this Bill speaks against the integrity and good character of the Australian people, in that, in blanket formation it brings together the guilty and the innocent as though all are guilty and, in one way or another, are engaging in the 'Black Economy'. The Bill judges and sentences all Australians as wrongdoers and demonstrates that the government has little faith in the will of the people to do the right thing. This Bill's coercive threat of imprisonment and hefty fines will apply to all Australians not just to the guilty but also to those people who see nothing wrong in using their own hard earned cash to legitimately pay for goods and services even if that sum is $10,000 or more. For some people that is how they have always done business. It is wrong of the government to interfere with the daily financial activities of the Australian people or involve the Australian people in the government's measures to deter and prosecute those who engage in 'Black Economy' activity. It is in a court of law where tax evasion should be dealt with not in Australian bank accounts or by imposing restrictions on how Australians use their cash. For these reasons alone this Bill to restrict the use of cash should never be passed into law.

Secondly - this Bill is not about tax evasion but rather is about the control of the use of cash. It is a well known fact that the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) and the Australian Government are keen to convert Australia to a cashless society. It is also a well known fact that the RBA and the Australian Government have been working hard for many years to achieve this goal. Evidence of this fact can be taken from the speeches delivered by Philip Lowe (Governor of the RBA) about Australia becoming a cashless society and the work the RBA has done towards developing the New Payments Platform (NPP) and then taking the NPP to its launch in February 2018. The Australian Government also launched the Small Business Digital Taskforce who reported back to the Government in 2018. The purpose of the Small Business Digital Taskforce was to 'to look at ways to accelerate the rate of small business digital adoption'. This Bill if passed into law can be altered at any time without any form of parliamentary process and therefore has the potential to become a vehicle for moving the Australian people into a cashless society by changing the cash payment limit. In fact, the Black Economy Taskforce advised the Government that ' The Government could consider lowering the cash payment limit of $10,000 once it has been in operation for a while to ensure that smaller cash payments are also restricted' (Black Economy Taskforce Final Report - October 2017 page 55). Also there is the fact that in Section Two of this Bill is a part that simply has the words 'to be inserted'. That uncertainty alone, of what could be inserted in that section, should ensure that this Bill is not passed into law.

Thirdly - this Bill dictates that payments of $10,000 or more should be paid through the banking system. This means that if passed into law that this Bill has the potential to force people into the banking system against their will. There would be no choice for the  Australian people because they would have no other option if they needed to pay for goods and services at or above $10,000 (or whatever limit would be set in the future). The banking system would become the centralised and only body in Australia for conducting financial activities. The consequences of these measures could be catastrophic for the financial well being of the Australian people. If the RBA and the Australian Government, in an environment of a compulsory centralised banking system for all financial activity for the Australian people, did achieve their goal of a cashless society then the banking system would become one sided. In a cashless society there would be no protection for the Australian people's money as without cash Australians would not be able to physically take their money out of the bank, that is, it would be trapped in the one sided banking arrangement, leading to the real possibility that Australians could lose their deposits if the banking system turns sour or have their deposits eroded because every transaction would incur a fee. As such, since this Bill would aid in the converting of Australia into a cashless society and drive people into the banking system then it should never be passed into law.

Fourthly - Australia's cash rate is currently extremely low and the Australian economy is suffering from a debt bubble that could crash the economy at any time. As the banking system in Australia is currently over exposed to housing debt, then there is the real possibly that the banks will be severely affected when the debt bubble bursts. Last year the Australian Government passed 'bail-in' laws which could put the deposits of the Australian people in jeopardy if the banking system looks like it may fail. This is because without physical cash the Australian people would not be able to take their money out of the bank to safe guard it. The irony of this fact is that the Australian Government insists that the 'Black Economy' creates an advantage for some but at the same time the Government does not mind plunging the Australian people into a unconscionable financial arrangement. Furthermore, the Australian Government guarantee on deposits cannot be relied on by the Australian people because it can only be activated at the Prime Minister's discretion. The 'bail-in' laws and the Australian Government guarantee on deposits are in conflict with each other if a bank or banks fail and the goal is to save the Australian banking system. In this context this Bill should not be passed into law because it aids in converting Australia to a cashless society and forces Australians into what may become a one sided banking arrangement.

Lastly - it is a well known fact that the IMF believe that in a recession the remedy is to push interest rates into negative territory. The problem being that this is a near impossible strategy if there is physical cash circulating in the economy and therefore the IMF also think it is a desirable outcome for countries around the world to become cashless. If interest rates were pushed into negative territory then the Australian people would have to pay the bank for (electronic/digital) deposits and also to keep their money in the bank. Australians would have no power to stop the erosion or loss of their hard earned cash because they would have no choice in a cashless society with a one sided banking arrangement that traps their money in the banking system. Once again as this Bill has the potential to convert Australia to a cashless society and also create a one sided banking arrangement for the Australian people it should never be passed into law.

For the above reasons I absolutely oppose the passing into law of that Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019.

Yours Faithfully

Maree Dorloff (Stonor, Tasmnaia)