**From:** Mal Whitehouse <mal@pilincorp.com>   
**Sent:** Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:04 AM  
**To:** RG - Black Economy <Blackeconomy@treasury.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Trevor.Evans.MP@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** Submission - Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019

Dear Treasury,

I am a regular tax paying Aussie citizen and represent my immediate family in this submission.

We hold grave concerns about the proposed Bill restricting use of cash in transactions. While the idea is to limit the black economy, I believe there are better ways of tackling that problem. Cross checking data being key. For example if someone is reporting an income of $20,000 p.a. but has a Ferrari registered in their name, then you can be pretty sure there’s funny money involved.  If a person has wealth, they should be able to reasonably justify how the money was made.

The proposed Bill (placing restrictions on the free use of cash) unfairly impacts on ordinary Australians’ who, by in large, do the right thing. The proposed Bill oversteps the mark and also does not close other ways to transact in the black economy. Crypto currencies come to mind. All Treasury is doing is shifting the goal posts.

Other expeditious approaches to policing trade in the black economy could come in the form of chasing those who phoenix their businesses, data cross checking (as mentioned above), shifting profits offshore as well as penalties/jail time on auditing and accounting firms ( to not to push the envelope).

My principal concerns with the proposed Bill include:

1. In a negative/zero interest environment many people would remove all cash from the bank and need to use it to pay bills, etc. Cash will be needed.
2. Cash is legal tender – why change a fundamental principle which gives the public freedom of choice and privacy. With data farming growing exponentially, who knows how information relating to one’s day to transactions will be exploited by corporations and governments.
3. Children learn about finance and saving through cash. I would hate to see my 6 yr old daughter playing with credit cards alone – how is she supposed to understand value if all money can’t be seen or held?
4. The Bill penalises savers. If people are forced to use a bank (a private enterprise) to hold my savings the public takes the risk for the banks’ behaviour. They will also have to potentially pay the banks for the right to hold moneys with the banks if interest rates drop below zero. The GFC and Banking Royal Commission has clearly demonstrated that these organisations are easily corrupted and participate in high risk activity to the detriment of the community and their customers.
5. If the Bill were introduced, I predict that people would revert to other forms of savings and trade such as Crypto currencies, barter, antiquities, art and precious metals. A massive outflow of cash from the banking system would crash the economy.
6. The Bill seems akin to 1984. There appears to be another agenda at play. The Bill is quite incomplete which suggests that the restrictions on cash will be widened to a point where cash is no longer legal tender.

Hence, don’t push for this Bill to be enacted. It is political dynamite. Cash works – there is absolutely no need to change our existing means of trading. Instead, focus efforts on shutting down the black economy via pro-active means as highlighted above.

I’ve taken the liberty to CC my Local Member so that he is aware the issue is one that concerns his voters.

Regards,  
Mal Whitehouse

28 Chermside St Teneriffe Q 4005  
0403 889 256  
[www.pilincorp.com](http://www.pilincorp.com)