**From:** James Mcauliffe <james.michael.mcauliffe@gmail.com>   
**Sent:** Sunday, 11 August 2019 7:42 PM  
**To:** RG - Black Economy <Blackeconomy@treasury.gov.au>; RG - Black Economy <Blackeconomy@treasury.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Submission: Exposure Draft—Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019  
**Importance:** High

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in order to voice my direct and major Opposition to the proposed **Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019 or** economy-wide cash payment limit of $10,000 as it is being colloquially referred to as simply because I believe without voicing our concerns as members of the Australian public that those in parliament will fail to look past the slim tax efficiency aspects of this legislation and merely vote it in without truly grasping the intent and consequences such a bill would bring about and that is the slow but steady destruction and erosion of the Civil liberties, of all Australians. This bill is nothing more than a blatant trap that will force all houses and business without exception to transact and be a part of the banking system, thus facilitating experimental monetary policies, via the back-door policy’s regulations and subsequent legislations.

After carefully reviewing your exposure draft, I wish to again make clear and register my strong opposition to the bill as proposed, my objections which can be found below are all centered around the following points.

**The Drafting of the bill is incomplete**

Meaning that your review processes is flawed and by releasing it late on a Friday night quite sneakily I might add, you have caused there to be quite a significant insufficient amount of public discourse in regard to the measures you propose which is further compacted by the very limited time for consultation you have provided make it hard for the public to truly be made aware of and make relevant submissions in response to your proposed legislation

**Erosion/ Destruction of Australia’s Civil Liberties**

Australia need to be allowed to have further public debate on these proposed measures as they are fundamentally and adversely restricting everyone’s personal freedoms. This is just another one in a series of measures which have been taken (including media freedoms) which are destroying the hard-won freedoms Australians fought for and use to enjoy. This legislation would also especially be turning Australia into a surveyed police state as the bill should it pass would require Surveillance of offending transactions. An Aspect that is not explained, nor is how it would be policed.

**No Finical Benefit**

This Bill states that its main objective and or purpose is to close all loopholes that enable tax avoidance and money laundering. However there is not number or quantification of what these potential “savings” would be – and this is also true of the earlier Black Economy Taskforce report.So it appears that simply running on emotion and without logic stating ones desired objectives is seen as sufficient enough to justify an outrageous idea of a bill. So I ask what if any is the true cost benefit of such a measure? Taking into account and remembering that all transactions which fall outside the exemptions would need to be tracked and examined?  Who would police them, at what cost?

**Legislation Would Be Ineffective**

Furthermore, it is clear after obtaining additional research from various sources that such a proposed cash ban would have very little impact on hard core tax evasion/leakage. here is but a common obtained example from a Professor Fredrich Schneider a n expert on the black economy from the Institute of Labor Economics at the University of Linz, Austria, whom has stated that there is a lack of empirical evidence that cash transaction bans will help reduce the black economy. I suggest reading Schneider’s paper “Restricting or Abolishing Cash: An Effective Instrument for Fighting the Shadow Economy, Crime and Terrorism

**Hidden Agenda**

In addition, whilst this Bill is silent on its connection to the implementation of negative interest rates a rather somewhat unconventional policy, the link is there and was made noticeable by the 2016 Geneva ***Report by the International Centre Monetary and Banking Studies (ICBM) titled: What else can Central Banks do?***  A paper I might add that was drafted by officials from various international organizations including the IMF/BIS along with many central and commercial banks.

**Negative Interest Rates Connection**

 The connection is so obvious in that a negative interest rate base environment would see households and businesses likely withdrawal all their funds from the banking system and transact solely in cash and if enough cash was extracted, negative interest rates would simply be useless and have no effect whatsoever. Therefore, I suspect that all the measures current Bill is proposing are truly about enabling negative rates and yet I find no mention of this within the Bill a fact that makes this truly a misleading and deceptive notion. I believe the true motivations should be on the record not hidden, but however this does it explains the short time frames for consultation and submission

**The bills Structure Allows Change by Regulation**

Finally, the structure of the Bill enables parameters to be changed subsequently by regulation (not via Parliament). This opens the door to removing some of the concessions contained in the current drafting by agencies without full scrutiny.  It is important to note that where cash transaction bans have been introduced, the value ceiling has been lowered.  France has legally prohibited cash transactions above 1,000 euros, Spain has legally prohibited cash transactions above 2,500 euros, Italy has legally prohibited cash transactions above 3,000 euros, and the European Central Bank ended the production and issuance of its 500 euro note at the end of 2018.

So Once again this bill should not be allowed to procced let alone pass and should it I shall be looking at storing percentages of my money in assets that are not controlled by the central banks of Australia in order to avoid all personal wealth being potential chewed up by a bail in which by passing this legislation would enable by essentially forcing all fiat currency to go through a bank

Regards, James McAuliffe