

Date: 12th August 2019
TO: blackconomy@treasury.gov.au

Regarding: Currency Bill 2019

I respectfully wish to lodge my objection to this cash restriction Bill and potential future cash ban. You have provided no evidence that cash is predominantly used by black economy. To save time I will make this short and partially point form (I only became aware of this bill on the weekend). The importance of cash is that it is more than freedom, it is a offline failsafe that does not discriminate or ban someone based on their sex, race religion or political views etc. In approximately 2002 I was at Ayers Rock Resort at the township of Yulara when suddenly we lost telecommunications, for several days we had no telephone, fax, internet, EFTPOS, Credit Cards etc. Retail Shops, IGA, service station etc were unable to conduct sales unless customers were paying in cash. Even the local bank was unable to allow customer cash withdrawals because their banking systems were offline. I luckily had a few hundred dollars of cash which I loaned to friends to allow purchase of groceries, fuel & medicine etc. It is indescribable how this loss of purchasing effected everyday activities. Our online systems & especially financial system are vulnerable to hacking and/or malicious attack, even your Parliamentary servers were recently hacked. Hardly a day goes by without security breeches (most not reported), CC/EFTPOS systems going down, ISP/Telephony service provider outages. Ref <https://downdetector.com.au/status/anz-banking/archive> & <https://downdetector.com.au/status/telstra/archive>

I always carry \$50, just in case. I have encountered 4 instances this year when I was able to pay for fuel, groceries & medicine while everyone around me were not, due to online system failures.

The recent Banking Royal Commission highlighted fraudulent banking practices. The same Banks that were bailed out by the Govt/taxpayers and Central Banks & yet no one has gone to jail ! The current financial system is drowning in debt and highly questionable bank portfolios backing overstretched loans..... not to mention the banks opaque derivative exposure.

It seems to me the RBA/BIS/Australian Government are panicking about the trajectory of our financial system. I hope that your advisors/lobbyists are not pushing the government to follow the failed Japanese model of 3 lost decades of economic growth. Those same advisors that are pushing for ZIRP/NIRP are certainly pushing for a future ban on cash. I suggest the government start looking to alternative sources of economic modelling & solutions for a long-term solution. You must be aware that the same advisors & academics (Keynesian school of economics) that are pushing rate cuts, future ZIRP & eventually NIRP are quietly pushing for banning cash (or at the very least make using cash overly burdensome & problematic) are also the same geniuses that have created this mess to start with.

This proposed bill is disingenuous at best, you have not allowed enough time for public consultation, you have excluded a significant portion of the documentation, you will expose the majority of the population (predominantly baby boomers/voters) to NIRP and potential ZIRP which could ultimately destroy confidence in the Australian currency.

But most importantly **this bill will not stop the black economy.**

The black economy will continue to use the main accounting firms (1), the 4 main banks (2), Casinos (3) & political bad actors (4).

If you are serious about reducing tax evasion might I suggest you start by:

1. Investigate the link between tax avoidance & the main accounting firms & the 4 main banks,
2. Taxing the Billions from large companies that pay no tax without scaring them away,
3. Remove tax free exemption from all non profit charities, if they have a history of protecting paedophiles they are not a charity & all trusts must pay 10% tax,
4. **Leave cash alone, it is the safety net that is offline in a world of online fragility.**

John Norday CC sharon.bird@aph.gov.au

1 <https://www.businessinsider.com.au/ato-tax-promoter-penalties-big-four-deloitte-ey-kpmg-pwc-2018-10>

2 <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/anz-fears-legal-breach-in-wickenby-investigation/news-story/1d8e03bd60e45d7f0597a8878cc34bc1>

3 <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/aug/01/crown-casino-yet-to-fix-money-laundering-risks-and-presence-of-alleged-criminals-documents-reveal>

4 <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/nsw-government-chases-corrupt-labor-powerbroker-eddie-obeid-for-7-9-million-20190228-p510w3.html>