From: terry rutherford <tjrutherford@live.com>   
Sent: Monday, 12 August 2019 11:33 AM  
To: RG - Black Economy <Blackeconomy@treasury.gov.au>  
Subject: Limitation of cash transaction bill

I would like to register my concern over this bill and would request at the very least it be delayed whilst further community consultation takes place.

Whilst the stated intent of reducing the black economy is admirable, in practice how would this work ? Will accumulators of large black economy cash holdings stop these activities in the face of this legislation or will they continue to launder via the casino, real estate and banking systems ? Would small operators, tradies etc replace cash with an alternate medium of exchange or a direct bartering process etc? Typically close one loophole another opens. I am unconvinced that this bill will significantly achieve its stated aim.

I understand once this bill is in place it will act as a framework allowing the minister to vary the detail within. In effect the minister can reduce the $10000 transaction value and reduce or eliminate the original exemptions therein at his discretion. I also understand similar legislative process has already seen cash limits reduced to $1000 in some European countries. I also note the European ECB openly describes their version of this process as a move to facilitate negative interest rates not eliminating black economy transactions.

My concerns.

Firstly, a cashless system forces people into a banking system which has proven itself incompetent and untrustworthy. In view of this do we want the bank to know everything we buy and everywhere we go? How will they use that information, who will they share it with ? Do we accept the banks having complete control of our personal money supply ? This is potentially an Orwellian control mechanism.

Secondly, is this really about the ECB propping up the global financial system and Australia propping up it’s too big to fail big banks in the event of a re-run of the 2007 GFC. History suggests the next GFC handbrake will be sharply negative interest rates.

So we could be facing a situation with no cash, negative 5% bank interest rates and bank bail ins on large deposits. Do we understand what this all means ? Do our politicians understand what this all means ? I very much doubt it !

I believe this is not legislation to be rushed out last thing Friday night with a two week submission deadline. I ran this situation across my personal friend group and there was absolutely zero knowledge of this legislation. This evidences the lack of public consultation both at the political and media level.

Please accept this as my formal submission that this legislation be halted subject to extensive public debate.

Thank you

Terry Rutherford