

Senate Standing Committees on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am writing to you to express my extreme concern around the Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019. I have followed the developments of the issues around the financial system for some time and felt that I need to make a submission due to the level of concern I have around the proposed Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019 and the general trajectory of regulation in this area.

The reasons given for this Bill to be introduced centre around the black economy, drug dealing and tax evasion with the claims being that these are endemic in the Australian economy and need to be rectified despite the fact that the proportion of the black economy in Australia is tiny and has been shrinking for years. Any headway into this very minor issue would have large unintended consequences and yield very little benefit. This Bill is an attack on the rights of people to be able to transact and undertake commerce in the way that they chose, and limits options for people to protect their wealth from failures of financial institutions.

If the true goal is to increase fairness in society and increase tax revenue as it is claimed then instead on attacking citizens rights they should be stopping the corporate black economy which is magnitudes larger than the claimed personal black economy. For instance why does the government not close some of tax loopholes and stop the egregious tax avoidance that many large companies partake in? This would be much simpler, yield greater results and be much less disruptive for society as a whole.

Instead by focusing on this minor issue the government is making it clear that they are not looking to achieve what they have stated but are rather using it as a cover for other means. It seems as though they are looking for ways to trap people's wealth in the failing financial system, which is severely over levered and concentrated on a few major institutions. The Government should be focussing on fixing the systemic issues with this system rather than looking for ways to band aid over the problems and putting citizens on the hook for the failures of the financial institutions, governments, and their captured regulatory bodies. Parts of this failure of governance were exposed during the royal commission however this was only scratching the surface.

Instead of the Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019 the government should be taking measures to increase the robustness of the financial system. Introduction of legislation to achieve this goal is what should be being pushed as well as perhaps a royal commission with an expanded terms of reference to show how we got here in the first place. Glass Steagall type regulations should be considered and measures taken to increase the number of financial institutions so that none of these are systemic. There are already proposals out there which do this such as the Banking System Reform (Separation of Banks) Bill 2019, which was first introduced into Parliament in June 2018 by Bob Katter and then into the Senate in February 2019 by Pauline Hanson. I urge the committee to explore these options which would start to address the issues that exist in the financial system.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]