

I wish to make a submission against the Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019.

The Bill makes it an offence to make or receive a 'payment' or cash payment of \$10,000 or more.

My concern is that the Bill makes no attempt to define the word 'payment'. A payment could include for example, withdrawing cash from a financial institution as you are being paid what you are owed by the bank. This is not a taxable supply and is not in any way evading tax through the use of cash. A person could simply wish to withdraw cash and hold it outside the banking system (which at the present moment requires constant central bank intervention in order to maintain the necessary liquidity for every day operations - <https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/23/fed-repo-overnight-operations-level-to-increase-to-120-billion.html>). Also, it is not clear whether a cash gift between related persons would also be considered a 'payment' and also an offence. There is no suggestion in the Bill that a 'payment' must be in exchange for goods or services and constitute a taxable supply, which would be more in line with the purpose of the Bill.

In addition, the Bill would appear to be in breach of the common law against the establishment of monopolies and against the principles of free enterprise. If cash payments are restricted, it would force people to use electronic payment systems which are solely facilitated by financial institutions via intermediaries (i.e. Visa) who charge for the service. The Financial Services Royal Commission has proven the financial institutions in Australia to be less than reliable. This bill forces Australian's to rely on them even further.

Finally, the bill seems to go against basic human rights (which are now being formalised into Acts in various states) and include the right to privacy. Electronic payments can be recorded, monitored and used to market products to you when you are most susceptible. Large computers can run algorithms to interpret the financial data of Australian's on mass to benefit corporations and front run trends (even set them).

Please do not allow this Bill to pass through the Australian Senate.

Regards

Martin Honzatko