**From:** Mark C. Calleja <mcalleja@vmjez.com>   
**Sent:** Monday, 12 August 2019 2:21 AM  
**To:** RG - Black Economy <Blackeconomy@treasury.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Comments about Currency Bill 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to express my grave concern and urge the Treasury to reject or reconsider the current bill.  I do not believe this is in the best interest of Australia and Australians.  Summarising my points I believe:

* It inappropriately categorises people who utilise cash as tax evaders.  This is only true for those who do not pay their taxes appropriately.  This is at odds with a liberal and free society and its values.
* It Forces all into the private banking system, but there is recent history of some people being excluded from banks.  There does not seem to be any protections for those excluded from the banking system.  This opens Australians up to vindictive and/or malevolent people within the banking system, as the banks will have the power to exclude.
* It disproportionately affects our elderly members of our community, as they traditionally work in cash.  Especially funeral arrangements and end of life matters.
* It will cause those who are trying to avoid taxes will simply move their transactions into other non digital transactions (barter has been a longstanding technique within the building industry), thus will be ineffective.
* It will disproportionately affect those who have limited access to digital systems, such as those in remote locations with no or unreliable internet connections.  Farmers, station owners, remote communities (esp aboriginal) in particular are the most vulnerable to being digitally excluded.
* It does not consider the possibility of a major disruption to the digital banking system.  A large enough hack, power outage, or corruption will prevent our society from continuing on with commercial transactions.
* There is plenty of well supported research in attitude difference between cash and non-cash transactions.  The overwhelming majority of research supports the claim that people think differently when using cash vs non cash (credit card, vouchers, cheques, etc) and people are less likely to get into unmanageable debt if they are wiser with their spending.  Forcing all transactions (albeit 10k and above) is at odds with these behavioural studies and may not be in the best interest of Australia (the corollary thought is the money claimed in taxes will be offset by the bankruptcy and loan defaults).

Thank you for receiving my comments.

Mark Calleja