

Monday 5 August 2019

Black Economy Division

Care of [REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern

Proposed changes to cash society not negative economies of scale

In relation to the proposal, in the first instance I write as to oppose the changes towards a reliance on digital financials based on the Cyber situation. My concerns are directed to the security implications on behalf of Australians.

A cashless society is not viable and is imprudent due to the realities of systems that require robustness and vulnerabilities eliminated, rather than a risk compliance strategy that is substandard for financial transactions, as recent forays into banking and financial services clearly highlight that systems are not capable now and not in the future. To prematurely facilitate a cashless measure is not just imprudent, the livelihood of not-for-profits, businesses and the commercial entities including individuals are not guaranteed an adequate level of safety to protect financially as well as allow for choice and for the right to use cash as a viable method of purchase -- not credit.

As it currently stands, I am not assured that the proposal benefits the above right to choice and trust in Information Systems that adequately mitigate threats to the infrastructure and data provisions for security by design and privacy by design -- prudent and innovative approaches to secure development prior to large scale digital changes with adverse effects a likelihood.

The consultation paper, I encourage, some further consultation in the Australian community to determine the actual likelihood risk as a percentage rather than a theoretical approach that relies on digital economic transformation that is not ready nor shall be for some time or not at all. That likelihood requires a canvas of public debate and a receptive approach by Treasury to apply the likelihood of security breaches of financials as well as personal and privacy as enshrined in law as the priority for citizens. Choice to use cash in a society that promotes the exertion of diverse and inclusive societies is, I encourage, a priority above the failures of digital economies to deliver the same benchmark of trust, reliability and security above all else.

Yours sincerely

Christine Anne Down