**From:** Craig W. Hedge <craighedge1@gmail.com>   
**Sent:** Sunday, 11 August 2019 7:58 PM  
**To:** RG - Black Economy <Blackeconomy@treasury.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Submission: Exposure Draft—Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019

To the Black Economy Taskforce

I am writing to send my clear message that this Bill is not in the interests of Australians.

*Limiting the use of cash is not in the spirit of being Australian.*

I do not support any measure to penalise the average honest Australian person, and limit their capacity to use the cash they have earned.

The freedom to use cash enables Australians to *manage and control their own money independent of a bank* or an electronic transaction controlled by someone, or something else.

The banks both in Australia, and globally, have far too much power and control over peoples money and lives now as it is - the Royal Commission findings clearly supported this.

The Royal Commission clearly demonstrated the shortcomings of the Australian banking system.

This Bill will reward the banking system by giving them more business and more control over peoples lives and their money.

Whilst I understand some of the *explanations* given here relating to tax avoidance, it does not correlate, nor is it in proportion, to the reckless behaviours of financial institutions, central banks and government itself.

Behaviours I might add, that are encouraged, and promoted, by existing government and global policy.

Tax avoidance is clearly happening and it is being manipulated by the big end of town - not by the average Australian.

I do not accept this bill is good for Australia, or good for Australians - this Bill simply takes more power away from people, and gives it to the banking system and enables central control of peoples finances.

It also erodes the diminishing trust that Australians have in major parties.

Clearly the people lose here.

*This Bill overlooks, and ignores, the spirit of Australia and Australians.*

Imagine for a moment that interest rates in Australia go negative, and there is no option to use cash based on, for example, emergency amendments to a Bill that enables cash restrictions.

*People will pay to have a bank hold their money.*

They will not have an option to take their money out of that banking system during such a cycle, and therefore will lose money, and control, of their finances in doing so.

We already have a situation where people are losing faith and belief in the currency and the value of their money, to take that option away will reinforce that lack of confidence further.

Is this a smart move by a Government faced with the current state of the global economy, and the challenges that appear to be on the horizon?

Restrictions to, or no cash at all, in a negative rate environment and a global recession that penalises people?

The Australian government clearly has not thought this through, or perhaps is too reliant on the IMF and the global agenda, to be objective about its own people losing control over their lives.

And pensioners? Do they continue to see the value of their lifetimes whittled away further as banks take more money, and more control, away from them?

Their hard earned money eroded by flaky policy reactive to the reckless behaviours of people who are not held responsible for their actions?

This Bill crosses the line and threatens Australians economic and civil rights.

This Bill serves centralised control, will not impact career criminals, or professional tax avoiders - it will simply penalise average Australians who are already suffering the consequences of failed economic policy, and the unhealthy relationship between banks and government, and the ever present and growing inflation by stealth.

This Bill will further minimise peoples already diminishing options to maintain control of what money they do have.

The Currency Bill gets a resounding NO from me, and in my opinion, does not reflect the so called values of the current Liberal government or Australia.

Regards

Craig Hedge