**From:** Ben Hagemann <benhagemann@gmail.com>   
**Sent:** Monday, 12 August 2019 2:35 PM  
**To:** RG - Black Economy <Blackeconomy@treasury.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Submission: Exposure Draft—Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019

Good afternoon.

My name is Ben Hagemann, I'm an Australian voter, and I do not agree the proposal of the 'Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019' because it will criminalise behaviour that is, at present, perfectly legal; I'm speaking of the use of legal tender. By criminalising the use of legal tender, this government will confuse the concept of legal tender, and risk unforeseen damage to Australia's system of fiat currency.

I believe Treasury should not recommend this bill. I believe treasury has a responsibility to protect the use of legal tender in all its forms, especially AUD cash, our sovereign currency.

Also, I know there are some people in Australia who have limited language skills, and fiat currency in cash, like our dollar, is sometimes the only kind of currency one can trust if their education level is an impediment to their understanding contracts with banks, etc. At the very least, the less educated cross sections of our community need to be able to use cash in any quantity they should find need for, without simple monetary transactions being decriminalised. Cash is designed so that we know if it has been counterfeited, and represents trust in our economy and Treasury. Treasury needs to match that trust in the people of Australia, who are already governed by laws that prevent tax evasion or money laundering.

I am surprised that the Liberal Party would allow such an addition, of new red tape, to the lives of everyday Australians, when the party has preached and promised (for quite some time) principles of smaller government, and the reduction of legal constraints and bureaucratic hold-ups.

I do not believe any legal behaviour should be criminalised - this particular bill is a grave risk to the principles that underpin free trade and legal tender of a fiat currency.

Any MP who votes in favour of this law would demonstrate their lack of understanding of liberal values, and risk shattering confidence in our sovereign rights as Australian citizens, and in our own sovereign currency.

I do not support the aforementioned bill.

Best regards,

Ben Hagemann