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**RE: No to the Proposed economy-wide cash payment limit.**

To Whom It May Concern

As a recently returned Australian citizen, one who has been living in a singularly cash economy for the greater part of a decade I am appalled by this proposed bill and wish to have my *against motion* of this proposed bill noted. I have spelled out five (5) points contesting this matter below.

1. Suppression of basic human freedom and citizens’ rights: The consideration that the Australian Government, a Liberal government at that, who should stand for protecting citizen’s liberty and freedom, is willing to close down the basic right to use cash transactions in the course of daily life is certainly a draconian and authoritarian move.
2. Passing of the initial law enacts tampering to occur by unelected officials. While the initial rate is being publicised at a $10,000 AUD limit it is clear from the legislation that once this initial Bill is enacted, as proposed, at any date in the future the doors are wide open for unelected bureaucrats to alter this cash ban ceiling. European countries that have implemented a cash ban on transactions have already instigated much lower limits i.e. France, Spain, Portugal, Italy. This rigid controlling mechanism will effectively force citizens to hoard wealth in the banking system.
3. This law further drives the existing overbearing and profit focused Banking system to monopolise fee transactions on all future spending: Penalising citizens simply because they do not want to provide more profitably to the already over supported main-line banks, puts the ball in their court to continue to monopolise banking transactional fees on the acreage person. This is contrary to the Australian ‘Fair Go’ system where people have a choice to participate in the various freedoms our great country offers. One of those freedoms being to choose how and when and where I spend the money I have rightfully earned and already paid tax on.
4. The argument that the cash ban will greatly impede the Black Market’ economy is very weak: The suggestion put forward that the $10,000 limit on cash transactions will “send a strong signal to the community that it is not acceptable to avoid tax and other obligations”, as stated in the Black Economy Taskforce report, is unsubstantiated and comes with no cost benefit analysis outlining that there would in-fact be a benefit to government tax revenue if this law were enacted. Further to this surely the onus is on Business owners to report their business transactions in their annual reporting mechanisms through the ATO. Having operated small business’ for over 20 years I know that the penalties that apply to business owners who do not declare revenue correctly are strict. Additionally, business accountants to the Small Business sector steer well clear of business books that have ‘dodgy’ dealings as their reputation is on the line also. This point also does not take into consideration the similarly high penalties that already apply if tax agents are caught collaborating and doctoring the books of any small business’ who deal in irregular and undeclared cash payments. It just does not happen at the everyday small business level; the risks of such illegal transactions enormously outweigh the benefits. So **no**, I cannot buy into this line of reasoning that the proposed cash ban will greatly impede the ‘Black Market’ economy.
5. Gearing up for a negative interest rate Economy: It is no secret that the RBA is gearing up Australia to head for zero to negative interest rates in the very near future. The continued ratcheting down of interest rates across government bonds, central banks and even retail mortgage lending agencies worldwide is further evidence that Australia too will follow suit in hitting ‘rock bottom and below’ interest rate policies. This will provide no incentive for me to leave our cash reserves in the bank, but with a limit on cash transactions I will be forced to do so. This surely is a major offense on the civil liberties of all Australians and far away from the spirit of the Australian ‘Fair Go’. Why would I deposit $100,000 in the bank if I am going to be penalised for keeping it in a banking institution. Due to the bank fees, transaction costs and zero to negative interest rates, the value of my wealth (and that of all Australians who put their money in the bank) will be eroded simply by keeping it in an institutional bank. This scenario is nonsensical to any Australian who has larger cash savings.

I trust that the duly elected members of the Australian Parliament will make wise decisions regarding the introduction of the proposed ban on cash and vote **NO** – to the bill as it gets tabled in parliament.

Knowing that Australian tax law, in relation to small and medium business recording transactions is currently robust, let no Australian Citizen have their civil liberties and freedoms curtailed in the interest of the banking magnates and their persuasive bed fellows.

Faithfully

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