Hi,

This email is in regards to the The Assistance and Access Bill 2018 proposal.

Please don't implement this bill as it is as it will dramatically reduce the reasons why I love Australia as a whole.

1 - Freedom of speech / Self-Censorship
By allowing our government to access private correspondences, this will have a chilling effect of free speech and will increase self-censorship. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-censorship

2 - Privacy
The Australia government through some specific bodies have been in breach of privacy. This is something inevitable due to human nature. The current state of this proposal doesn't offer any good guarantee that this system will not be used inappropriately.

3 - Burden of accessing data
While it's understandable that legal forces are frustrated by not being able to access such data, other ways through the person of interest itself should be leveraged first rather than risking the freedom and privacy of millions of Australian.

4 - Innovation
By forcing any company to comply this will create 2 major side effects. First, this will slow down Australia's ability to innovate as more work for startups will be required to comply with legal laws. Second, this will move innovation outside of Australia as the technical requirement in order to reach our local market will be too high.

5 - Erosion of tactical advantages
By weakening systems to allow government to access data, this bill will make systems even less secure and could expose millions of users to 3rd party actors - It's already a major issue in Australia with far too common identity fraud and theft. Furthermore, state sponsored attacks could leverage such hidden doors to disrupt services or gain knowledge about targeted fellow Australians.

6 - Underground movements
This bill missing a critical point. Software development is equal to freedom of speech. No government can prevent (unless of a repressive regime) a developer from programming and publishing their code online. While major companies may comply with Australian laws, alternatives will develop and the problem will remain the exact same. At that point, law enforcement won't access data and Australia will have weaker/less secure systems. This is exactly what happened when Napster disappeared and p2p solutions where published publicly. Finding other means to access data (such as compelling persons of interests) will provide a more lasting effect.

I hope this email will echo with many other and this government will listen to its citizens and permanent residents.

Best regards