

From: Erika Ferguson
To: [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)
Subject: Submission to consultation on the Assistance and Access Bill 2018
Date: Tuesday, 4 September 2018 10:38:58 PM

Dear Minister

I am not a fan of the bill that goes by the name: 'The Assistance and Access Bill 2018'. This is such an innocuous title when what you actually mean is Assistance for the government to Access citizens' e-mails and internet usage. No one else is being assisted.

I am tired of the increasing levels of government intrusion in people's lives. I am tired of governments becoming increasingly authoritarian. This is all justified by throwing around terms like, "security" and "terrorism" and "tough on crime". The reality is that old fashioned tip-offs and reading the things people post openly in social media provide plenty of data to enable the authorities to prevent and detect crime and apprehend those who are doing things they shouldn't. Where there are reasonable suspicions someone is up to no good there is always the option of obtaining a warrant. Warrants have to be requested from magistrates, which helps to reduce their abuse.

The Federal Government is notorious for its "data spills". I can think of at least two recent instances of Federal Government agencies auctioning classified data (someone forgot to scrub a computer's hard drive before auctioning it and someone else didn't bother to check the contents of a cupboard before auctioning it). So I do not believe that the Government would keep people's data safe from third parties.

The problems go beyond accidental leakage: US data collection agencies, using systems like ECHELON, have been linked to industrial espionage.

I am sure there are people who are saying, "Well, if you aren't doing anything wrong, then you don't have anything to worry about." I say that anyone who believes that is either incredibly naif or downright dishonest. Power corrupts and the more power a government has, the more likely it is that it will behave corruptly.

This bill imposes undue imposts on telecommunications and related software and service providers. It doesn't provide extra security or safety for citizens, rather the opposite is true.

Yours sincerely

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