

From: Jeremy Visser
To: [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)
Subject: I do not support the Assistance & Access Bill 2018
Date: Monday, 10 September 2018 7:34:39 PM

I vehemently oppose the Assistance & Access Bill 2018 as currently proposed.

My concerns are primarily with the premise and scope of the legislation.

The premise is essentially that criminals use encryption, thereby making encryption a roadblock to law enforcement that must be overcome. Nothing could be further from the truth. Encryption is a vital tool that not only underpins the security and integrity of all IT systems, it protects the privacy of ordinary citizens.

The freedom and rights of citizens is far more important than any use case criminals might have for encryption. If law enforcement can't unlock a criminal's phone, that is a fair price we must pay for a reasonable level of privacy and the presumption of innocence of ordinary Australians.

The scope covers essentially anyone who writes software or offers a service to others. This is far too broad, and I have grave concerns for corporations, small businesses, and individual hobbyists alike, who are suddenly in scope for being compelled to provide assistance to opaque law enforcement or risk several years imprisonment.

As Australians, our right to freedom is far more important than your wish to imprison us for 10 years for refusing to decrypting customer data, or six months for quite rightly refusing to unlock our phones.

Jeremy Visser.