

**From:** Lee Tagg  
**To:** [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Department of Home Affairs Assistance and Access Bill  
**Date:** Friday, 7 September 2018 5:59:07 PM  
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**Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion and concerns on the Department of Home Affairs Assistance and Access Bill, they are as follows:**

- Cryptography and the use of encrypted communication and storage are fundamental to how we as a nation protect ourselves from international threats, domestic competition and corrupt individuals.

- Forcing software companies to use specific components/modules to undermine their product's security simply creates a new attack vector for nefarious parties and inherently makes software use less secure for Australians.

- Criminal parties wishing to avoid detection will easily work around the security mechanism by employing layered security and peer-distributed cryptographically signed alternative software excluding the use of commercial products delivered via general distribution channels.

Shouldn't the average Australian be afforded the right to protect their personal privacy on their own private devices and be supported by the Australian government to uphold that right?

I beg you to consider the possibility that at some stage, most likely beyond your own tenure as a politician, you or a family member may be faced with injustice and persecution based on age, race, gender, faith, sexuality, health or vocation.

- By granting governmental rolling, continuous and even historical access to every digital conversation using compromised software, you are potentially opening the door for inadvertent mass persecution and a national humanitarian disaster.

- No assumption can be made about who or what may gain unlawful access to a network of compromised systems. It's already quite possible that the proposed back-door / software component may be vulnerable to advanced neural networks specifically tailored to learn and adapt system penetration techniques let alone what else may arrive any time due to exponential global technological advancements.

- By choosing to open the gate now, we as a nation are inviting the worlds most well-equipped penetration testers and crackers to an open hunting season on our private and confidential national data.

Breaking security is simply not the forward-thinking answer and I beg you to oppose the Assistance and Access bill based on the reasoning provided.

Thank you,  
Lee.

**Lee Tagg**





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