

From: Luke
To: [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re. The Assistance and Access Bill 2018
Date: Wednesday, 5 September 2018 10:53:53 AM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Luke Fries, I am the founder and CEO of R3DCITY - a technology startup based in Sydney.

I am writing to you today to express my concern about the proposed federal "Assistance and Access Bill 2018" and what it would mean for myself, my company and Australia in general.

This bill, allowing the government to force Australian companies to comply with surveillance via compromising the digital security our our products and services - is a terrible idea. The act of watering down encryption or adding side channel access to digital products means that those services are now exposed to manipulation by non-authorised parties including computer hackers, criminals or even foreign governments, and those services are also exposed to bad actors within the Australian government itself.

It has already been proven that the Australian metadata retention scheme has been abused by privileged employees with access to the system. The Australian government also failed to run a successful digital census. The Australian government has allowed our health information to be compromised. The Australian government allowed a defence contractor to be hacked, losing the plans to no less than the new ASIO building. Recently, the Bureau of Meteorology was also hacked by a foreign government.

The Australian government cannot even protect itself digitally, yet it asks for access to all systems run by Australians.

Furthermore, putting the onus of work onto Australian companies to comply with these new directives is absolutely unacceptable. As a company owner and director, I do not want my business - or any other - to literally pay out of pocket to comply with unnecessary laws that will do little to 'protect us'. I reject the argument that doing so will stop terrorists, child predators or other criminals. These people will always find a way around dragnet surveillance. All these laws will do is weaken the security of every individual in the country, and add unnecessary costs to Australian businesses that could otherwise be invested into the economy.

I urge you to reconsider the bill, and to reject it unreservedly.

Regards,
Luke Fries

Luke Fries - Founder

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