

From: Matthew Lisson
To: [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)
Subject: Submission to consultation on the Assistance and Access Bill 2018
Date: Tuesday, 4 September 2018 3:27:12 PM

Dear Minister

The draft legislation 'The Assistance and Access Bill 2018' is a dramatic overreach, and concerns me greatly. Chiefly:

1. This Bill puts overly broad powers into the hands of the wrong people:

This Bill allows the (unelected) attorney general to compel companies to "do acts or things" to assist ASIO or foreign governments with enforcing the law, national security, foreign laws or public revenues. What acts or things? Which foreign governments? Which laws will allow decryption of which pieces of a persons personal information? "The Attorney-General must be satisfied that any requirements are reasonable, proportionate, practicable and technically feasible." - Without an independent oversight organization, and a baseline guarantee of regular people's privacy, how is the Attorney General supposed to make judgements about these requirements? I guarantee he has no idea what is technically feasible, or which decryption capabilities communications providers already have for which kinds of data.

2. This Bill decreases everyone's digital security:

This Bill would require companies to provide information about how their systems work. It would allow more people physical access to networks. It would require organisations to test and install new functionality built by the government. These measures would undoubtedly introduce new threats and vulnerabilities into the systems that we all use each day.

3. Decision makers do not have the required expertise:

From the explainer document: "This means the decision-maker must evaluate the individual circumstances of each notice."

With only a handful of non-experts with no oversight to be the decision makers, how will they possibly have time to evaluate any of the outlined concerns in any detail? For example Google handles hundreds of US Government information requests a year (<https://transparencyreport.google.com/user-data/us-national-security>). These requests will no doubt be written by ASIO and signed blindly by the people with authority, as any other way of using this process is infeasible.

I urge the government to consider how this Bill, in its current draft form, could damage the way that I, and many other Australians, use digital communications on a daily basis. I am also concerned about the impact on my rights - particularly the right to privacy.

Thank you

Matthew Lisson
