

**From:** Owen Robinson  
**To:** [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)  
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Weakening encryption for any purposes weakens it for all purposes. Normal citizens use encryption when we do a number of things on the internet, from shopping to private messages and online banking. All of the data involved in these activities is highly sensitive and could easily be used in criminal activities. While this bill is supposed to protect us from criminal activities it actually gives many criminals an edge they otherwise would not have had. It is impossible to have only the 'good guys' be able to bypass encryption at will because, at its core, it would mean creating a flaw in the system. A flaw which could easily be exploited by all sorts of criminals for all sorts of nefarious purposes such as identity and credit card theft.

However this bill is also concerning as it gives the government yet another tool to spy on its own citizens. The amount of privacy violations in this day and age is already distinctly Orwellian and giving the government more invasive tools is not the solution. Whilst I do believe the government as a whole does look out for Australian's best interests, there is nothing to stop a rogue individual or group of individuals, within the government from abusing this power for personal or financial gain. There is also the matter of the powers in this bill being extended to any matter that the Attorney General deems "appropriate". This is an absolutely unacceptable amount of power to place into one person's hands and it frankly disgusts me that my government would even consider this sickening invasion of privacy in the first place.

Criminals will always find new ways to hide from the authorities and they will certainly avoid the powers contained in this bill as well, so the people it truly threatens are average citizens who simply wish to exercise their right to privacy. There are far better ways to catch criminals using encryption than the powers contained within this bill. And so in conclusion, I and many others are not willing to sacrifice our remaining freedoms for the possibility of security. So I truly hope that my elected officials will actually represent the views of their constituents and vote this bill down, where it belongs.

Regards,  
A Concerned Citizen