

**From:** Peter Whyte  
**To:** [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to consultation on the Assistance and Access Bill 2018  
**Date:** Friday, 7 September 2018 6:22:39 PM

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Dear Minister

I am writing today voice my dismay and concern over the draft legislation titled 'The Assistance and Access Bill 2018'.

Encryption of digital communication is vital to modern finance. Encryption protocols are the backbone of the digital economy, applied to every single online transaction. Any attempt to weaken it for the sake of further vulnerability, and to give unfettered access to law enforcement, will be a risk no other democracy is taking. Strong encryption is essential to the modern Australian economy, and it would be a mistake to deliberately weaken it.

We already have evidence of spying tools (backdoors) developed by Five-Eyes agencies 'escaping' into the wild. Once something is built, it is only a matter of time until criminals or unscrupulous agents gain access and mis-use it.

While the goal of preventing terrorism or other crimes is laudable, the cost to our privacy and human rights is unacceptable. You cannot make a risk free world, and in fact this Bill would increase the risk of harm, rather than reduce it.

I urge the government to discard this Bill, and instead develop a realistic Bill in consultation with security and human rights experts. The current Bill reduces our freedoms and increases our risk of harm.

Thank you

Peter Whyte  
