

**From:** Tim Edwards  
**To:** [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Assistance and Access Bill 2018  
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Hi,

Strong encryption provides safety, privacy and security to everyone who uses the Internet. It's also 100% essential for all businesses that work online. Any moves to weaken it by introducing backdoors, sidedoors or systemic weaknesses would severely risk the security of everyone who uses the internet in Australia. It would also badly damage our IT industry by making a legally hostile and uncertain for multinational technology companies locate their Asia/Pacific offices here, not to mention the damage to Australia's own start-up scene.

This law, while hiding behind complex legal language, still relies on backdooring, side-dooring or otherwise systemically weakening encryption to achieve its aims.

Best regards  
Tim