

From: Tom Barham
To: [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)
Subject: Feedback on Assistance and Access Bill
Date: Monday, 10 September 2018 11:16:48 PM

Hi.

I'm an Australian student who is also employed in the tech/startup industry. The internet and technology has been a big part of my life for as long as I can recall.

Both myself, as well as everyone I know, is strongly opposed to this bill. It will have drastic negative consequences on the freedom and privacy of Australian citizens, with extremely little benefit.

While I understand the bill is well-meaning, it opens up massive opportunities for bad actors, hackers, and other not-so-well-meaning parties. It brings us several steps closer to a potential Orwellian future.

Additionally, the bill as I understand it would have drastic consequences on the Australian tech industry. Both companies and individuals involved in said industry will be driven away to other nations. I fear many companies will refuse to allow Australians to use their online businesses, possibly similar but much worse to what has occurred with GDPR.

This bill **will not** make it harder for terrorist groups and organised criminals to avoid detection and disruption. It's not possible to enforce the bill on every company, big and small. Once a bigger company has had back doors in place, those who use the service for illegal purposes will simply move to something not yet susceptible. They have a large motivation to move, law-abiding citizens won't - as a result, the only people this affects are the exact people who ARE NOT doing something wrong.

I urge the committee to dismiss this bill, on the points laid out above.

From my experience, this is not what the Australian people want, as it will do far more damage than it does good.

Tom Barham