



Protecting Critical Infrastructure and Systems of National Significance

*Submission by AISA
September 2020*

The Australian Information Security Association (**AISA**), the peak body representing the nation's cyber security sector, in principle supports the Government's proposal, as defined in the Protecting Critical Infrastructure and Systems of National Significance Consultation Paper, to develop an enhanced framework and the government's commitment to the continued prosperity of our economy and businesses.

AISA also, in principle supports, the need for deeper and more granular critical infrastructure sector classification in a worsening threat environment.

Furthermore, in the objectives outlined in the paper across:

- Positive security obligations
- Enhanced cyber security obligations
- Government assistance for entities

AISA members strongly support and would insist that the government does not overwrite the civil liberties of its citizens and does not overwrite the privacy rights of private entities and citizens to achieve the above objectives.

I would like to state here, that AISA has opted not to submit a detailed response to all call for views as part of this submission and the reason for this is twofold:

- A short consultation period of 1 month. This did not allow for adequate data collection or analysis from our membership base.
- AISA members, strategic partners and sister associations will submit their views, many of which have been authored by AISA members and, in principle AISA supports.

And it is important to state here that AISA and the broader AISA membership base does recognise the significance of future proposed legislation, and potential impact on all Australians, and as in an effort to accelerate and concentrate efforts, AISA will form a critical infrastructure and national significance entities think tank within the membership base.

The think tank will have the primary objective to survey the broad AISA membership base with a subset of the call for view discussions points for broader and deeper data analysis.

The think tank will then seek to draw a conclusion around AISA members views on **classification of critical infrastructure entities with significant consequences, and the financial and privacy implications for industry through government collaboration to support up-lift.**

AISA would also like to request from the government access to the submission to include in the data set and formation of the membership survey.

AISA will publish the first round of think tank research within 60 days of access to the submission papers.

While no detailed views are presented here, AISA welcomes further one-on-one consultation with the government and Critical Infrastructure Centre to provide further depth and context drawn from extensive membership base as the peak body representing the nation's cyber security sector and those who will be on the front-line.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input and I hope to collaborate with you on the development and addition to this important legislation.

Yours sincerely

Branko Ninkovic

Sydney AISA Chair (and on behalf of the AISA members and board)

About AISA

AISA is a not-for-profit charity, established in 1999 with the mission of educating and helping the community, industry and government to protect, detect and respond to cyber-attacks. AISA has a broad membership base of over 6,900 members that include board directors and C-Level executives through to highly technical professionals and the next generation of the cyber-security workforce. AISA has key strategic partnerships with a range of organisations and other associations to help bring together the skills, thought leaders and mind-sets required to protect Australia's sovereign interests. The AISA annual national conference, the Australian Cyber Conference, is the largest and best-regarded event on the Australian cyber calendar, with Cyber Week and Stay Safe Online anchored around AISA's conference.

In October last year, the Australian Cyber Conference was attended by more than 3600 delegates from 24 countries over 3 days in Melbourne. The 2019 conference was also the inaugural partnership with the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC).