

25 October 2019

Strategy, Governance and Industry, Cyber Security Policy  
Department of Home Affairs

By website submission: [www.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Open letter in response to the Australian 2020 Cyber Security discussion paper.

I was fortunate enough to attend a number of government-led cyber security strategy workshops in October and I would like to thank all the teams involved in putting the sessions together, they were open, insightful and collaborative.

The common observation from these sessions were: a push for more information sharing out of government, a lot of interest in a cyber security ratings scheme to build consumer confidence, and a call to government to help address a perceived skills shortage in the cyber security space.

While I don't disagree with the outcomes available from well structured information sharing programs (Superloop actively participates in various information sharing forums), I am skeptical of many Australian businesses' ability to directly leverage cyber threat information to their benefit.

Instead of a direct-to-consumer model, I would like to see more emphasis put on service providers and critical infrastructure to incorporate shared information into the products and services being offered to consumers.

I agree that a government sponsored platform, with curated cyber threat information could ultimately benefit all Australians. A significant challenge when consuming threat intelligence is information quality and associated overhead. For cyber threat intelligence processing and response to be automated the source of the data must be reliable, credible and timely. The government should be able to achieve this with industry participation. A platform which provides the functionality to incorporate community feedback on data credibility would be an enabler for businesses and create a community for information sharing.

For an initiative like this to be successful, the government needs to encourage businesses operating in Australia to contribute to the platform. Without an incentive model, the drive for businesses to participate in and ultimately the success of any information sharing platform will remain limited.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Lawrence  
Chief Information Security Officer