

To the office of the Attorney General:

I would like to show my strong opposition to the plan to expand access to communications metadata to civil suits.

The government should not collect metadata in the first place. It is an invasion of the privacy of citizens, and is easily avoided by criminals. Only the innocent are hurt by it. However, given that this scheme is already in place, I must oppose its expansion in any form.

Opening metadata to civil suits will allow the private information of citizens to be exposed to the public and to anyone with a vendetta. In particular, it will create motivation for frivolous lawsuits, created with the express motivation of exposing the victim's internet browsing history. This abuse of the court system cannot be tolerated, and is of particular importance to those subject to personal abuse and harassment.

The metadata scheme was introduced with the clear promise that it would be used only in terrorism cases. Any broadening of the use of metadata is immoral and a betrayal of the trust of the Australian people.

- Adam Steel.