

I am an Australian born and bred citizen, my family lineage from both my mother and father can trace their heritage back to Australias earliest days as a colony and then later as its own nation. I have been vocal against the data retainment act passed in 2015 in relation to national security and law enforcement due to the ambiguous nature of what exactly constituted as acceptable reasons for accessing the metadata now retained on all individuals residing in Australia. Now I have been informed that the Australian Government intends to allow for scope creep of an already invasive law to be considered.

I am under no illusion that law enforcement agencies may have used this metadata to their benefit during the last year of investigative measures in matters of national security, and I understand that the recent terror plot uncovered in Melbourne may be an argument for giving access to this information to those who can use it to protect and serve the Australian public, the same cannot be said if this information is allowed to be disclosed in civil cases. I am not allowed to spy on a person in their homes and use the information I gather in a court, if this consideration is allowed that might as well be the reality. Furthermore, the timing of this consultation so shortly after the passing of laws requiring ISP's to block copyright infringing websites or websites that promote copyright infringement and the subsequent increase of Foxtels services by 16% cannot be struck away as mere coincidence, if this consultation finds it to be allowable for metadata to be used in civil cases without restriction, there is no doubt in my and many others minds that this information will be abused to intrude on the private actions of individuals residing inside Australia. We already have a legal system that should be utilised in suspected cases of infringing the law, we don't need to allow state sponsored spying to become a part of civil law as well.

Thank you for your consideration.