

To: the Department of Communications and the Arts and the Attorney-General's Department.

I'm writing regarding the review to access to telecommunications data in civil proceedings. Put simply, I object in the strongest terms to the notion that collected data is made available for civil matters. I objected to the wholesale collection of data for alleged national security reasons, and to suggest that the collected data may be used for further, broader purposes is deeply distressing.

I believe that our privacy is increasingly under threat and increasingly valuable in the international black market. The Australian Government has an obligation to its people to help protect that privacy. Mass concatenation of data and gradually broader provisions to use that data are both risky and of minimal benefit to the Australian people. Allowing for the current Government's benign plan for the use of this data, we need only look at precedents during McCarthyism (to pick just one) to see how future generations may be persecuted through the use of this data.

I would also like to draw attention to inviting comment for such a controversial suggestion over the Christmas/New Year period. To suggest that most Australians are not otherwise occupied during this period, and are in a position to weigh up the matter and provide input, is somewhat disingenuous.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment: I hope you will receive much more input from the Australian people about this matter.

Thanks again,
Beth Battrick