

Dear Sir/Madam,

The collection and retention of Australians' metadata was allowed under law for the purpose of ensuring the safety of Australian citizens and the pursuit of justice by the Crown, representing the public good. This was, and still is, a contentious piece of legislation because of the slippery slope the retention of such data allows. Amending it to allow use in civil proceedings would realise our worst fears when the legislation was first debated.

You must not send the country tumbling down the slippery slope by allowing retained metadata to be used for civil proceedings. It goes against the spirit of the current legislation as it was presented to the Australian people and would be an unacceptable intrusion into the privacy of Australian citizens. To think that any company or private citizen could request such sensitive data is horrifying.

Amending the current legislation will also be self-defeating. Public opposition will certainly increase and the whole system will be at risk of being scrapped as a result. This too would be contrary to the original aims of the legislation.

I urge you to make the right decision and continue to prohibit the use retained metadata for civil proceedings.

Yours Sincerely,
Dr Matthew Gullo