

To whom it may concern,

My submission on this consultation paper will directly point towards Question 3: "Are there particular kinds of civil proceedings or circumstances in which the prohibition in section 280(1B) of the Telecommunications Act 1997 should not apply?"

I am to understand that this consultation is to gauge public opinion of the use of telecommunications data collected as part of an already controversial and inadequately explained government initiative, one that the Attorney General himself failed to sufficiently explain ahead of its implementation, in civil disputes.

Below you'll find a list of suitable circumstances in which the prohibitions in section 280(1B) of the Telecommunications Act 1997 should not apply:

- There are none.

As an Australian citizen with even a passing amount of internet savvy, the idea of any sort of data about my online activity being retained disgusts and frightens me. This particular government, through its mishandling of the 2016 Census, the continually botched rollout of the National Broadband Network, the ongoing failure of the MyGov human services platform, and the loss of millions of Australians' tax records through a failure at the Australian Tax Office, has proven itself utterly incapable of successfully pursuing an IT project of any kind, let alone one of protecting such sensitive data from sophisticated hackers and foreign national interests. The fact that the Australian government is even considering opening its use up to civil cases, further exposing its citizens to abuse from foreign bodies by way of vexatious litigation, is appalling.

This government's Attorney General has already sold out the interests of the Australian public in many ways during his time at his post; that he would wish to do so in yet another insulting way is absolutely no shock. Should he actually wish to maintain the existing prohibitions and protect the privacy of the everyday Australian, I would be greatly surprised and relieved.

Regards,

Rory Betteridge  
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