

To whom it may concern,

In a nutshell: No. Just no.

The abuse of data possible by the very nature of collection of the metadata as legislated is a grossly misunderstood problem. I have researched computer security for over a decade, and can easily piece together intimate details of peoples lives over time from very basic metadata.

The ability to reference and sort through this data in civil matters is a disaster waiting to happen.

It is already a joke that so many government agencies that should never have access to this data in the first place. The Taxi Directorate? Australia Post? My local council? None of these should be on the approved list in the first place.

Instead of looking at how to spread access to this data to different agencies and departments, we should instead be looking at the real use cases for locking out folks that do not have a spectacular reason for obtaining it.

What we have already done is stripped the right to privacy for every Australian without any real explanation of what can be done with the data. We have ensured that with the relatively long retention time that anyone can be persecuted years later and a case built on metadata - no matter how truthful.

While it is probably outside the scope of this review to kill the metadata laws completely, we should still aim to neuter the use by anyone and everyone to utilise this information.

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