

Forsius Consulting (Australia)

21 November 2016

Senator David Bushby
Chair
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

RE: Inquiry into the *Interactive Gambling Amendment Bill 2016*

Dear Senator,

This submission is provided by Forsius Consulting (Australia) to the Committee on behalf of our client, Netsweeper, which offers internet filtering products (see www.netsweeper.com).

Netsweeper notes the content of the proposed legislation and its intent to deter operators of overseas-based gambling websites from promoting their services to Australians.

Netsweeper believes that while the measures contained in the proposed legislation may have some marginal effect in deterring the more responsible of these website operators, the vast majority of these operators will not feel compelled in any way to moderate their behaviour in response to the legislation, and that in fact a significant majority of them would not even become aware of these actions on the part of the Australian Government.

Netsweeper would argue, therefore, that the only practical means of preventing access by Australians to illegal overseas-based illegal gambling websites is to block access to them.

Netsweeper has developed a technology that will prevent all but the most determined of internet gamblers from accessing these websites, and would be pleased to offer a briefing to the Committee by telephone on how this technology could achieve the policy objective of the Australian Government, without any unintended impacts on other website access.

Attached is a short concept outline ***Illegal Overseas Gambling Websites – A Proposed Solution*** which is Commercial in Confidence and we request that it not be made public.

Yours sincerely,

Brent Knevett
Director
Forsius Consulting (Australia)