

**Subject:** Intelligence Committee inquiry into the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Bill 2014  
**Date:** Wednesday, 24 December 2014 9:34:31 PM

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Dear Committee,

I am dissatisfied and nervous in the extreme with the Government's handling and proposed implementation of the Data Retention Bill, for reasons I set out below.

- Technical and Industry experts have postulated serious doubts over whether or not 'content' can be separated from 'metadata'. The Government must provide clear and above all *transparent* guidance as to how this distinction will be made and maintained. I am deeply concerned that the Attorney-General seems incompetent even to define metadata. This does *not* inspire confidence. We demand a full, unobfuscated explanation.
- The Government must *clearly and transparently* describe the safeguards that will accompany data retention to ensure that Australians' personal data will *only* be accessed for legitimate security reasons.
- The Australian public needs *clear and transparent* guarantees that their sensitive personal data information will be protected from hackers or foreign entities, especially in the light of the number of significant data breaches in recent times.
- The Government must indicate succinctly the cost of this scheme, and how *and by whom* it is to be funded.
- Serious consideration must be given to the potential impact on Press freedom, as the scope of retained information could potentially reveal journalists' sources and the identities of whistle-blowers.

These concerns must be addressed and answered *fully and openly* by the Government before the legislation can be even considered, let alone passed.

Yours faithfully,

Mason Hope