



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY

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Public hearing on telecommunications sector security

Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee will hold an additional public hearing on Thursday for its review of the Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.

The Bill introduces laws to manage national security risks of espionage, sabotage and foreign interference to Australia's telecommunications networks and facilities.

The Bill is intended to formalise and strengthen existing industry-government engagement, and to encourage early engagement with government agencies on managing national security risks.

The PJCIS Chair, Mr Andrew Hastie MP, said that "Telecommunications infrastructure is essential for Australia's national and economic security. We rely on this infrastructure to carry electronic communications and to store information securely."

"At the heart of this review is a balancing of national security and commercial interests", he added.

"The Committee is using its review to ensure the practical design of Australia's telecommunications security framework is well calibrated to meet the needs of both industry and government."

The Committee will use its second public hearing with the Attorney-General's Department to further examine matters raised in submissions received from industry.

The public hearing will be held as follows:

Thursday 23 March 2017 – Committee Room 1S4, Parliament House, Canberra

4.00pm to 5.00pm: Attorney-General's Department

The hearing will be broadcast live at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/live>

Further information about the inquiry, including submissions, can be accessed via the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/pjcis>. The Bill and Explanatory Memorandum can be accessed via http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation.

Media enquiries: Chair, Mr Andrew Hastie on (02) 6277 4223 (Parliament House)

For background: Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2360 or email pjcis@aph.gov.au