Active Cyber Defence Alliance

Opening Statement for Public Hearing 8th July 2021

Parliamentary Joint Committee for Intelligence and Security

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ACDA Submission to PJCIS – Opening Statement for Public Hearing 8th July 2021

Opening Statement

In reviewing the Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure) Bill 2020 (**the Bill**), the Active Cyber Defence Alliance (**ACDA**) has provided seventeen recommendations that we believe will drive better cyber security, better preparedness for a cyber security incident, greater clarity around cyber security issues for operators, and cyber security leadership for the Australian business community.

The legislation needs to include reportable management of information security linked to the risk-based approach already in the legislation. This will drive better cyber security for operators and regulators and remove an arbitrarily low baseline defined by the specific requirement of a handful of security controls.

Recommendations for sharing information and threat intelligence, clear lines of accountability, response exercises and active defence measures will all contribute to operators and regulators being better prepared for cyber security incidents.

The recommendations around the legality of interaction with the attackers in the event of a cyber security breach will provide greater clarity for operators and the regulators, as will the mandate for reportable management of information security.

If there is successful implementation of better cyber security practices across the critical infrastructure ecosystem based on a robust and progressive Security of Critical Infrastructure Act, then the benchmark will be set for other parts of the Australian economy to follow suit in implementing strong cyber security measures.

The ACDA has a particular focus on cyber security and providing recommendations for the defence of Australia through the security practices of all organisations. Thank-you for the opportunity to participate in this public hearing today.