



Centre for Advanced Resilience and Risk Policy Studies

Review of the Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure) Bill 2020 and Statutory Review of the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

This Review highlights the importance of improving the security of Australia's critical infrastructure. Despite acknowledging the crucial nature of this task, the Review appears to lack awareness of developments in risk thinking and thus enshrines out-of-date and demonstrably defective 'risk management' processes. The result is a potentially ineffective statutory resilience framework in Australia – one most likely to produce a recurrent catchcry of 'failure to act faster.'

While recognising today's interconnectedness and interdependence (like never before), the Review fails to adopt new risk thinking, new approaches and new frames, required for situational awareness enabling pre-emptive and informed decision-making.

Global resilience thinkers and leaders are looking at least three-years ahead, identifying strategic vulnerabilities and exposures that require protection against: which also provide opportunities for economic benefit and enhanced societal well-being. The Global Resilience Commission demonstrated this new thinking on 3 December 2020 – a global webinar sponsored by the Electric Infrastructure Security Council – www.eiscouncil.org.

Currently, the Review's approach would entrench baseline, traditional risk management 'operational processes' which have repeatedly failed and will continue to fail at significant times and levels. Rather than trying to react to existing risks when it is usually too late, resilience in the future must be approached from a perspective of potentiality. World events in recent months reinforce this.

ARPI's Strategic Risk Policy™ (SRP) is not risk management. Risk management processes assume that risks are linear and behave "rationally" and they fail to deliver a time-value protection metric. Risk management processes are overly mechanistic for the challenges that confront nations today.

The Centre for Advanced Resilience and Risk Policy Studies (CARRPS) reinforces submissions by the Australian Risk Policy Institute (ARPI) to the Department of Home Affairs urging a total rethink of the resilience and risk approach, along the lines being adopted elsewhere. CARRPS was created by Professor Robert Glaze of both Oxford University (UK) and The Brenva Institute (USA/EU) in partnership with the Australian Risk Policy Institute.

In summary, ARPI's new thinking has produced a new approach and new frame which achieves the desired outcomes outlined above plus more. For example, ARPI suggests that the term 'Critical Infrastructure' be further expanded to include all matters that affect societal well-being as a whole. As it stands, it is submitted, that the proposed legislative amendments actually embed ineffective public policy hence implementation and miss an opportunity for innovation.

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