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Submission

7 November 2022

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100

Re: Privacy Legislation Amendment (Enforcement and Other Measures) Bill 2022

The Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) thanks the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for the opportunity to comment on the Privacy Legislation Amendment (Enforcement and Other Measures) Bill 2022 (the Bill).

ACCAN is the peak body that represents consumers on communications issues including telecommunications, broadband, and emerging new services. ACCAN provides a strong unified voice to industry and government as we work towards communications services that are trusted, inclusive and available for all.

Privacy and data security are critical to communications consumers and underpin their confidence in the communications market. ACCAN supports the Bill, which will strengthen existing privacy arrangements and protections for consumers. ACCAN supports the proposed amendments that will:

- Increase the maximum penalties applicable for repeated breaches of privacy and strengthen financial incentives for data holders to comply with their privacy obligations.
- Enhance the powers of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) to gather information concerning privacy breaches and to issue new infringement notices.
- Strengthen the Notifiable Data Breaches scheme to ensure the OAIC has comprehensive knowledge concerning information compromised due to an eligible data breach.
- Enhance the ability of the Australian Communications and Media Authority to share information with non-corporate Commonwealth entities to support the enforcement of Commonwealth law.

We thank the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for the opportunity to comment on the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Gareth Downing
Deputy Chief Executive Officer