



Submission No 13

Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation

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Organisation: Private Capacity

From: Craig Veness
Sent: Wednesday, 18 July 2012 8:43 AM
To: Committee, PJCIS (REPS)
Subject: Answer to call for submissions for the upcoming inquiry on reforming national security legislation

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to the reform proposals to the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979*, the *Telecommunications Act 1997*, the *Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979* and the *Intelligence Services Act 2001*, as outlined on the APO website here:
<http://apo.org.au/call/inquiry-potential-reforms-national-security-legislation>.

As both an Australian citizen and a small business owner I am seriously concerned about the over-reaching changes proposed by this reform. I believe it is inherently wrong to log and track activity via an individual's ISP and/or participation in social network/s. Further, the level of powers suggested here for ASIO are far beyond what I would consider 'reasonable'. No-one would allow a bill to pass that allows a federal agent to have a 'master key' for everyone's homes where they could enter the premises and remove, change or even leave new documents or other material in their homes without their permission or knowledge, yet this reform is attempting to achieve the electronic equivalent and I will not stand for it.

This reform seeks to remove accountability from the governing bodies involved, which in itself flies in the face of a democratic government. For the benefits to law enforcement that this would admittedly provide, I do not believe that the sacrifice of privacy that every Australian must make to facilitate the reform is even remotely worth it. I strongly disagree with the reform.

Regards,

Craig Veness