

06 August 2004

Mr Philip Bailey  
Acting Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Bailey

I refer to your email of 05 August 2004 in which you invite comment from the Law Council of Australia in relation to the provisions of the *Crimes Legislation (Telecommunications Offences and Other Measures) Bill (No.2) 2004*.

Given the timeline for providing submissions on this matter is 06 August, the Law Council regrets that it is not in a position to make a substantive submission to the Committee.

As the Law Council understands it, the Attorney-General's Department did release an the exposure draft of the legislation some time ago, but it has since been modified considerably.

The Law Council would have appreciated the opportunity to consider the revised Bill in detail and to have contributed to the Committee's deliberations but the time allowed the Law Council to analyse the Bill and draft a useful submission is wholly inadequate.

It is the Law Council's view that the timelines imposed by the Senate in this instance are not only unreasonable, they undermine the integrity of the Senate inquiry process. They also deny potential contributors the opportunity to enhance the Senate's understanding of the Bill.

While the Law Council appreciates that the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee Secretariat staff, including yourself, have no control over these matters, it would be appreciated if you could convey these views to the members of the Committee.

In the circumstances, I regret that the Law Council is unable to be of any further assistance on this matter.

Yours Sincerely



**Peter Webb**  
**Secretary-General**