

14 July 2023



C/- ACMA
Dept. of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional
Development, Communications and the Arts

Dear ACMA,

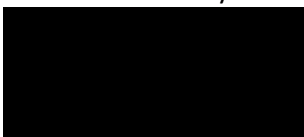
As an Australian citizen I write on behalf of all freedom loving Australians to register my disgust and most sincere protest against the **Communications (Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill** released for comment by the Albanese Labor Government. This Bill is outrageously proposing to empower ACMA to undemocratically and un-civilly interfere with our God-given rights to free speech by giving ACMA inappropriate authority to determine what is truth and what isn't truth concerning the speech and opinions of Australian citizens on social media platforms while at the same time giving Labor and all politicians exemptions from these draconian immoral and unlawful regulations. This is a gross violation of our individual civil rights, democratic freedoms, it violates all principles of good governance and it must be stopped.

All Australians should be free to speak truth to power, not merely one agency's self-determined truth determined and approved in an Orwellian manner by politicians (and their agencies such as ACMA) who are self-servingly and undemocratically seeking oppress a great many Australians who's views differ to their own via the punitive measures proposed to be imposed on them via social media platforms. These social media platforms have become the new "virtual" town square in our digital society. They perform a public service which, self evidently, ought be beyond the reach of government to interfere other than to uphold historically accepted rights to free speech and punish incivility that breaches historically normative standards of the rights of others at a criminal standard. No matter what their views, the speech of the Australian people ought not be censored or "controlled" by their Government in any manner beyond that which breaches normative criminal standards historically established in free western democratic society, let alone in the manner this Bill proposes. For these reasons, the measures proposed in this Bill will lead to greater incivility and national unrest not less.

All just lawful Governments derive their just powers from the free consent of the Governed. Any Government that legislates to control the speech of its citizens as this Bill proposes is working against and undermining the rights of the people it has been given the privilege to protect and uphold, and ought not erode and repudiate God-given rights as this Bill shamelessly seeks to do.

We the Australian people never gave the Albanese Labor Government the lawful power they now seek to impose via this Bill, nor do we have the authority to give them, or any government, any such power which would interfere with the God-given rights and freedoms of our fellow citizens. If this Bill is passed it will lead to the loss of all the things you yourselves are privileged to hold dear and enjoy including your own freedoms. I say this because, as horrific history of the Dark Ages, the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution, the Nazi Regime and the Cambodian Pol Pot oppression has proved, the inevitable result of seeking to control and oppress the opinions and speech of those in civil society who differ from their Government of the day, is tyranny, calamity and ruin.

Yours sincerely



William Pitt