

The Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts,
GPO Box 594
Canberra ACT 2601

25/07/2023

Re: New ACMA powers to combat misinformation and disinformation (the Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023)

Dear officer,

I am writing to express my profound concern at loss of freedom and human rights that the proposed Australian Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023 will bring.

Freedom of expression and freedom to hear and boldly voice contrarian opinions, expression and thought, and to openly debate ideas is the bedrock of a free, democratic, scientific and civilized country and society.

Statement of Compatibility

I call on the Department to immediately, under the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*, release publicly the required Statement of Compatibility which must accompany new Bills. The statement must assess the compatibility of the proposed legislation with the rights and freedoms recognised in the seven core international human rights treaties that Australia has ratified, including the ICCPR.

Very simply put the Bill allows the ACMA too much power and I fundamentally oppose this Bill.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Alexander Crothers.

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