

To: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT

**Re: Proposed New ACMA powers to combat misinformation and disinformation**

Dear Sir,

We wish to express our disapproval of the proposed legislation regarding ACMA powers to combat misinformation and disinformation on social media.

It is our view that this proposal will take away the very essence of who we are as a society and the freedoms fought for by our ancestors over many decades.

We have prided ourselves in the freedoms we have enjoyed in our society. It seems now our society is becoming more totalitarian with freedoms being taken away in this manner.

Although the apparent intention of this legislation is to limit the ability of noxious elements to spread their message, it will in fact lead to authoritarian control of any and all social media information that social media and ACMA deems to be misinformation and disinformation, whether it is or not. It will lead to effective gagging of any voices of dissent of accepted orthodoxy, without right of appeal.

The draconian penalties in the legislation will have a chilling effect on public discourse, gagging what would otherwise be legitimate debate on issues of public importance such as the indigenous Voice to parliament. The Labor government's labelling of Voice 'no' discussion as misinformation and disinformation is clear evidence that such discussion will be caught in this legislation. How can this be democracy in action?

This proposed legislation is against all accepted principles of democracy and free speech. It must not be made law. We urge all parliamentarians to vote against this proposed legislation.

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Jeff and Janice Ham

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6 August 2023