This proposed bill to give ACMA new powers to combat misinformation and disinformation should be tossed in the bin.

"Misinformation and disinformation pose a threat to the safety and wellbeing of Australians, as well as to our democracy, society and economy."

This sounds like something from Orwell's Ministry of Truth. We don't need some bureaucrats to tell us what is misinformation and disinformation nor to censor from public view information they deem harmful to our safety and wellbeing or that of our democracy, society and economy. If points of view that differ from the authorised are banned then our democracy and society has reached a dystopian 1984 level. I don't want the government deciding for me what to read, listen to, see or think. The best way to combat misinformation or disinformation is to present alternative views and let the people decide. That, after all, is what a robust democracy demands.

Attacks such as the one that this bill proposes on free speech are becoming all too plain to see for anyone who has witnessed the way our society has deteriorated from 9/11 on. After the events of 9/11 and the launch of the war on terror many of our previous freedoms were curtailed in the name of fighting terrorism. These days we don't hear about many terrorist attacks but AML, KYC rules and Xray scans at airports are still in force.

We have just lived thru several years of Covid19 mask and distancing mandates, lockdowns and vaccine mandates. All these were "authorised" by politicians and bureaucrats for the safety and wellbeing of Australians. These same authorities claimed the vaccines were safe and effective and anyone who dared state a different point of view was to be censored and branded "antivax". Well it seems that a lot of scientific studies have shown that they were neither safe nor effective. So you see why one might be sceptical about future claims by "authorised" gatekeepers to be arbiters of misinformation and disinformation.

And on the horizon we see approaching other crises about which the "authorised" powers may wish to curb potential misinformation and disinformation. Since about 2018 there has been a definite "authorised" narrative about China being an aggressive and potentially threatening country to Australia. This (dis)information campaign comes from the US fears of losing its hegemony in the world, and the US has orders of magnitude more influence on Australian domestic and foreign policy than China. So much so that the "authorised" view is that anyone who may want to condemn AUKUS or the surrender of Australian sovereignty to US military and economic interests may well be accused of misinformation and disinformation and thereby silenced.

Climate change is another "crisis" approaching. Already people who argue against the "climate catastrophe", even scientists, are called "climate deniers" and their views classified as misinformation. Thru history society has developed and advanced by using more and more energy. What Australia needs is a real debate about all the options available to enable our country to progress and its people to flourish.

On all and any potential threats or challenges, the way forward is to make our society more resilient and informed. That is served by making information, different opinions and robust debate widely available. It is definitely not in allowing some information to be classified by experts and bureaucrats as "authorised" and therefore publicly available, and contrary views as misinformation or disinformation and withheld from public view.