

New ACMA powers to combat misinformation and disinformation

The Issue

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

The above statement from the Federal Government is typical Orwellian double-speak which lacks any proof there is any real threat to the safety of Australians or democracy with respect to misinformation and disinformation. In fact, this statement confirms that any threat to the “safety and wellbeing” of Australians is mostly likely to come from the Federal Government via NEW powers given to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

ACMA

Once again, we see Government pretend to be at arms length, as it grants further powers to an “independent” authority to be manned by faceless bureaucrats who have no direct accountability to the Australian people. The ACMA is answerable to the Government who is proposing this legislation; how is it possible for the ACMA to be truly independent of its masters? How is democracy enhanced by effectively giving more powers to the Government, which already has transparency issue?

In Summary

Governments’ generally lust for more power over the people who elect them, and rarely give up those powers, even if they were granted on a temporary basis. I see no reason for the ACMA to have regulatory powers over media providers in the spurious idea that the Australian people need to be protected against misinformation and disinformation. This effectively says that the Australian people are incapable of discerning fact from fiction. Australians like to believe that their politicians have their best interests at heart, but all too often, our politicians are self-interested and make promises that they frequently break. One might say, they are “economical” with the truth!

I see ACMA and the Federal Government as effectively one and the same. I do not trust ANY Government or Government Agency, with the powers as outlined in this proposed Bill. I intend to lawfully resist all attempts to stifle the free speech of myself and my fellow Australians.

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Peter Coventry

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