

"Even a simple, singular transaction, such as buying a pair of shoes online touches your bank, the merchant card processor, the retail or wholesale vendor, the shoe manufacturer, the shipping company, your Internet service provider, the company that runs or manages the ecommerce engine that makes it possible, and every technology infrastructure organization that supports them. That's a lot of opportunity for any single bit of your transaction to be stored, shared, or otherwise mis-used."

Kord Davis

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

1. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his honour and reputation.

2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

WHO WATCHES THE WATCHERS?

The one-way militarisation of the internet is steadily eroding the very freedoms that our security agencies were intended to protect.

From straightforward privacy concerns to wider questions of genuine security and the integrity of a medium that holds so much promise, a healthy balance can only be struck with concerted citizen action.

Our collective will is about to be tested. The Attorney General has referred proposals for a sweeping expansion of total surveillance powers to a Parliamentary inquiry.

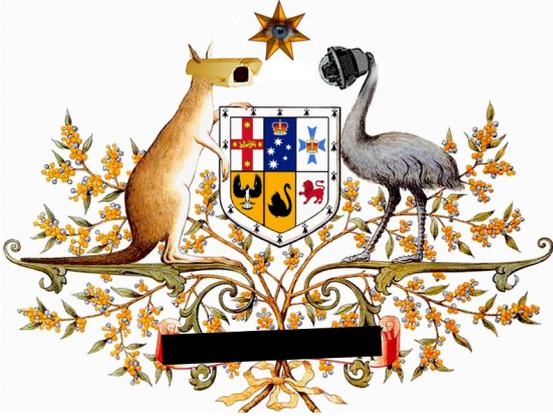
Find out more, and raise your voice.

scott-ludlam.greensmps.org.au/natsecinquiry

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Attorney-General Nicola Roxon has called for an inquiry into 'reforms' of security legislation to boost ASIO's powers again, and require all ISPs and phone companies to collect and store all data on all users for up to two years.

All data, for all Australians, for years: every article you read online, detailed locational data collected by your phone, everyone you come into contact with, everything you buy.

Surveillance overreach doesn't come much more audacious than this.



COMMITTEE HOME PAGE

<http://ow.ly/cjtJv>

DISCUSSION PAPER

<http://ow.ly/cjtPN>

ORGANISATIONS

<https://www.efa.org.au/>
<http://www.privacy.org.au/>
<http://www.accan.org.au/>
<http://pirateparty.org.au/>

MEDIA

crikey.com.au
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The internet is a vital communications medium that millions of people use to exercise rights to freedom of expression and collaboration. This geography-defying network is already playing a role in building a globally connected civil society, which has become an important part of how we confront the challenges of the 21st century.



Since the September 11 attacks, cyberspace has become steadily more militarised. In Australia, increasingly expansive and poorly defined surveillance powers are regularly passed through the Parliament with minimal debate.

As much as it is the Government's role to promote collective protection against identity theft, online crime and acts of political violence, we also have an expectation of privacy, freedom of expression and freedom from arbitrary acts of state coercion. As the lines between terrorism, civil disobedience and healthy dissent are deliberately blurred, Australia's security agencies and police forces have been deployed against climate change demonstrators, the occupy movement, anti-whaling campaigners and supporters of the WikiLeaks publishing organisation.

Australians have a strong tradition of standing up for free speech and freedom of association - we need to safeguard these traditions in the online environment.

The National Security inquiry

Our biggest test will be defeating the Government's total surveillance proposals, recently referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Intelligence and Security.

Among other things, these proposals include:

- surveillance of Twitter and facebook accounts,
- criminalising encryption; withholding computer passwords,
- ASIO stop-and-search powers,
- ASIO powers to plant or destroy information on computers without notification
- two year data retention across all platforms, for everyone.

Visit the committee's web page (<http://ow.ly/cjtJv>) and make a submission - be as brief or as detailed as you like. Follow the debate on twitter at #natsecinquiry and spread the word.

Who watches the watchers?
It looks as though we all have to.

