

**Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety****Chair: Senator Catryna Bilyk****Deputy Chair: Mr Alex Hawke MP**

Bipartisan report on Cybercrime bill released today

Senator Catryna Bilyk today tabled the report of the review into the Cybercrime Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill enables law enforcement agencies to prevent the destruction of electronic evidence, and for the greater sharing of communications and telecommunication data with foreign countries.

The report contains 13 recommendations that will clarify and tighten conditions under which new police powers can be exercised.

Committee chair Senator Catryna Bilyk said the bill is an important step toward Australia's accession to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime.

"The modern face of cyber crime is no longer the nuisance hacker, but is more likely to be a trans-national network of people conspiring to violate privacy and defraud innocent Internet users," Senator Bilyk said.

"It is important that Australian police are able to work with their international counterparts, especially in relation to crimes against children."

"The Committee was supportive of the bill, but there is always room for some drafting improvements," she said.

"We had unanimous support for amendments that should allay any fears about the potential to misuse these powers. We want to ensure powers are available to fight cybercrime and that the public has confidence in the scheme."

"There has been some misinformation about this Bill. It is not a data retention scheme and it does not allow foreign countries to demand access to private communications as has been alleged," she said.

Further information about the inquiry and the report can be obtained from the Committee's website:

http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jssc/cybercrime_bill/report.htm

or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4202.

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