



9 July 2007

Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Australian
Mobile Telecommunications
Association
ABN 98 065 814 315
First Floor
35 Murray Crescent
Griffith ACT 2603 Australia
PO Box 4309
Manuka ACT 2603 Australia
Ph +61 2 6239 6555
Fax +61 2 6239 6577
Web www.amta.org.au

Email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Re: Inquiry into Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment Bill 2007

I am writing on behalf of the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA), regarding the inquiry into the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment Bill 2007 (**the Bill**).

AMTA welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the Bill. AMTA recognises that the assistance that the telecommunications industry provides to law enforcement and security agencies contributes to the effectiveness and efficiency of those agencies and benefits the Australian community. AMTA also recognises that ongoing changes in technology and industry structure mean that the interception regime will require adjustments from time to time.

AMTA submits that while it generally supports the Bill the proposed amendments have implications for the telecommunications industry and is keen to achieve a balanced policy outcome for the industry, law enforcement agencies and the national security agenda. It should be noted that, in cooperating in the provision of interception and related activities, the industry is obliged to give weight to other national and commercial objectives, including:

- maintaining the competitiveness of the Australian telecommunications industry, relative to our major trading partners
- commercial interests in meeting legitimate shareholder expectations of return on investment, and
- maintaining individual competitiveness through the ongoing exploitation of new technologies, innovation and the launch of new services to consumers

AMTA's outstanding concerns are outlined in this submission, along with suggestions about how its concerns might be addressed.

AMTA believes its concerns can be addressed in a relatively straightforward manner through minor amendments to the Bill. Any further points of clarification can be resolved through discussions with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and the Attorney General's Department.

AMTA is committed, as always, to working cooperatively with relevant government and law enforcement agencies to develop close and workable relationships in achieving shared outcomes. AMTA welcomes the opportunity to provide comments to the Senate Committee on the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment Bill 2007 and looks forward to discussing the detail of the attached submission with the Committee.

Yours sincerely.....

Chris Althaus
Chief Executive