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ATTORNEY-GENERAL
THE HON PHILIP RUDDOCK MP

21 MAR 2007

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Mr Peter Coroneos
Chief Executive Officer
Internet Industry Association
PO Box 3986
MANUKA ACT 2603

Dear Mr Coroneos

I refer to your combined letter of 2 March 2007 regarding the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Bill 2007 ('the TIA Bill'). I have written in the same terms to Mr Althaus and Ms Hurley.

Thank you for providing comments on the draft Bill, and I appreciate the concerns you expressed in relation to the proposed Attorney-General's determination making power contained in section @192 of the Exposure Draft.

Based on your comments and those of other telecommunications industry submissions, I have removed the determination making power from the current TIA Bill, and instead propose to transfer the existing determination making power contained in *Telecommunications Act 1997* Section 322 across to the *Telecommunication (Interception and Access) Act 1979*. The maintenance of the existing legislative position will provide time in which to explore other, more collaborative models, for the development of standards for interception capability. In particular, it will be important that any process that is developed is capable of meeting the challenges involved in finding solutions to emergent technologies.

I would welcome your thoughts and proposals on such a collaborative model, and I have asked my Department to meet with you in the near future to develop a solution to the issue of Australian standards.

The action officer for this matter in my Department is Jonathan Curtis, who can be contacted on 6250 6359.

Yours sincerely

Philip Ruddock