

To Whom it May Concern,

I wish to object to changes to the FOI laws that are being considered as outlined in the above document. I have three concerns:

- a) Generally: The reforms should not proceed.
- b) Specifically: P12 consultation
- c) Specifically: P14 extension of the reforms to the private sector.

Dealing with these in more detail:

A) GENERAL OBJECTIONS

- The reforms proposed increase the capacity of government to be less accountable. Further they extend the powers of the government to make inquiry of matters that I do not consider it to be the business of government to do so.
- I believe that the thrust of the document is written in contradiction to modern western ideals of free people and free societies.

B) P12 - CONSULTATION

Reference:

- "Other Amendments To Improve The Operation of the Act", P12 states: "so that consultation is only necessary where it appears to the agency or Minister that the business might reasonably wish to make a contention"

Objection:

- This section will provide government with the capacity to publicly release private information about individuals the government is in possession with, without referral to that individual. This denies the individual in question natural justice to defend their desire to keep private information private.

B) P14 – PRIVATE SECTOR

Reference:

- "...Reform Commission with a reference to consider whether FOI should be extended to, or another disclosure regime provided for, the private sector".

Objection:

- This would allow competitors of a private enterprise to view a company's commercially sensitive information or intellectual property. This substantially erodes Australia's competitive capacity through a destruction of property rights.

Yours faithfully,
William Morgan