

EFA calls on major parties to support encryption & privacy technologies

Canberra, 27th June 2016

In [an open letter published today](#), EFA calls on the major parties to support encryption and privacy technologies in the face of international attempts to undermine these critical enablers of the digital economy and the protection of fundamental human rights.

Attempts to undermine encryption and other privacy technologies represent a fundamental threat to the safety and privacy of all users of digital technologies. The risk that any such 'backdoors' will become available to unfriendly governments, organised criminal syndicates and other malicious actors is extremely high.

EFA therefore believes that any moves to undermine encryption in the name of 'national security' are fundamentally misguided and in fact represent serious threats to national security in their own right, as well as threatening human rights and the enormous economic and social benefits that the digital revolution has brought for people across the globe.

EFA has received commitments from a number of Australian political parties to protect strong encryption and privacy technologies and to resist any attempts to undermine these critical enablers of the digital economy (see the [various responses to our Election Policy Questionnaire](#)).

EFA has also received [a letter from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet](#) which supports encryption and other privacy technologies and the principle of a free, open and secure Internet.

EFA therefore calls on the two major parties - Liberal and Labor - should they form the next Australian government:

- to endorse the support of strong encryption and privacy technologies articulated in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's letter;
- to commit not to attempt to undermine these critical technologies; and,
- to show global leadership on this issue.

[See the full open letter](#).

About EFA

Established in January 1994, Electronic Frontiers Australia (EFA) is a national, membership-based non-profit organisation representing Internet users concerned with digital freedoms and rights.

EFA is independent of government and commerce, and is funded by membership subscriptions and donations from individuals and organisations with an altruistic interest in

promoting civil liberties in the digital context. EFA members and supporters come from all parts of Australia and from diverse backgrounds.

EFA's major objectives are to protect and promote the civil liberties of users of digital communications systems (such as the Internet) and of those affected by their use and to educate the community at large about the social, political and civil liberties issues involved in the use of digital communications systems.

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