

The issues that the changes to the ACMA act may cause are:

- *Suppression of dissent: Governments with excessive control over the media can cause it to suppress dissenting voices and manipulate public opinion. They can censor or heavily regulate information that challenges their authority or exposes wrongdoing, effectively stifling critical voices and limiting public discourse.

- *Lack of media pluralism: Excessive government control can lead to a lack of media pluralism, where only a limited range of perspectives and opinions are allowed or promoted. This stifles diversity of thought and hinders the development of a well-informed citizenry. It can create an echo chamber effect, where citizens are only exposed to a single narrative, undermining the democratic ideal of an informed electorate.

- *Propaganda and misinformation: When governments control the media, they can manipulate information to serve their own interests. They may spread propaganda and disseminate biased or false information to manipulate public opinion. This undermines the public's ability to make informed decisions and erodes trust in the media and the government itself.

- *Violation of privacy and surveillance: Governments with excessive control over social media platforms can infringe upon citizens' privacy rights. They may monitor and surveil individuals' online activities, suppressing dissent and discouraging free expression. This can create a climate of fear and self-censorship, inhibiting the free flow of information and ideas.

- *Limitations on freedom of expression: Government control over social media can restrict freedom of expression, a fundamental human right. When individuals fear reprisals or legal consequences for expressing their opinions, they are less likely to engage in open discourse, leading to a chilling effect on free speech.

- *Undermining the democratic process: Media and social media play a crucial role in the democratic process. Citizens may not have access to accurate and diverse information necessary for making informed choices, and the ability to question and challenge those in power is curtailed.

It is important for a healthy democracy to have a free and independent media that can provide diverse viewpoints and hold the government accountable. Striking a balance between regulation and freedom is crucial. I believe that the changes the ACMA act will put that balance in favour of the government having too much power.