



Bill of Rights · Open source algorithms · Age-banded SM · Internet everywhere · No government censorship

**NONE**

Constitutional  
Free speech protection

**2**

Media companies  
Control Australian news

**0**

Bills of Rights  
In the Australian Const.

**0**

Algorithmic  
Transparency required

## THE PROBLEM — FREE SPEECH IS CONDITIONAL, NOT GUARANTEED

### NO CONSTITUTIONAL FREE SPEECH

Australia has no constitutional guarantee of free speech. The implied freedom of political communication is narrow and uncertain. What Parliament gives, Parliament can take. Free speech exists at the pleasure of whichever

### GOVERNMENT MISINFORMATION LAWS

Legislation gives government bodies the power to define and compel removal of misinformation. No government or algorithm can be trusted as sole arbiter of truth. The misinformation label is applied most aggressively to heterodox views and

### MEDIA CONCENTRATION — ONE VIEW

Two companies — News Corp and Nine Entertainment — control the majority of Australian print and broadcast media. Cross-ownership rules systematically weakened over 30 years. Perspectives have narrowed dramatically. The

## THE MMP SOLUTION

### BILL OF RIGHTS — Free Speech Law

MMP establishes a statutory Bill of Rights enshrining freedom of speech, press, assembly, and religion. A future government cannot remove these rights by simple parliamentary majority. Freedom of speech includes the right to say things that are offensive and wrong — the remedy for bad speech is more speech, not government-mandated silence.

### WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION — Full

Comprehensive protection: any Australian who exposes genuine government wrongdoing or corporate misconduct is protected from prosecution, civil liability, and employment retaliation. Journalists who publish are protected. No Australian faces criminal prosecution for telling the truth about the powerful. Existing whistleblower prosecutions reviewed.

### MEDIA DIVERSITY — ABC Restored

The ABC restored to full independent funding — indexed to population and inflation with statutory protection from political interference. Cross-media ownership reformed: no single entity controls more than 30% of the national media audience. Diversity of voices is a democratic asset. Its concentration is a democratic vulnerability.

### NO MISINFORMATION LAWS — Repeal

All legislation giving any government body the power to define and compel removal of misinformation is repealed. The answer to harmful false information is transparency, media literacy, and a diverse media landscape — not the state deciding what is true. Platforms required to be transparent — not to be state censors.

### INTERNET — SBC + Satellite

Internet everywhere — three delivery mechanisms: SBC communications spine to every corridor town; a sovereign satellite deal with SpaceX — manufacturing and launch at the SBC spaceport, Starlink internet built on Australian soil; and a universal service obligation. Every community guaranteed high-speed broadband. Telcos that cannot deliver lose spectrum licences.

### SM — Age Bands + Open Algorithms

Replace the U16 ban with mandatory age-banded content: 8-12 curated only, no ads, no DMs; 13-15 parental visibility, time limits; 16-17 full access with digital literacy onboarding. Platforms that cannot implement age-banded design lose their Australian licence. All platforms above minimum size must publish recommendation algorithms as open source — publicly auditable.

### DEFAMATION REFORM — Truth Wins

Public interest defence strengthened: reporting on matters of genuine public concern is protected where the journalist acted in good faith and made reasonable efforts to verify. Cost protection for defendants in public interest proceedings. Serious Harm threshold raised. Defamation law exists to protect genuine reputations — not to silence journalism.

### PLATFORM — Open Source Code

All social media platforms above a minimum size publish their content moderation policies and apply them consistently. Algorithmic amplification systems disclosed — independent audit body with full access, annual public report on what each algorithm amplifies and suppresses. The algorithm that shapes Australian public discourse is public infrastructure, not a trade secret.

### PRIVACY — Judicial Oversight

Metadata retention reviewed — blanket retention of every Australian's internet activity is disproportionate. Encryption-breaking powers subject to strict judicial oversight — no agency accesses private communications without an independent court warrant. A statutory right to privacy enshrined in the Bill of Rights. Australians have a right to communicate privately.

### AI CONTENT — Disclosure Required

All AI-generated content in political advertising must be disclosed. Deepfakes of real people without consent prohibited. AI-generated voice and video of political figures must be consented to. National AI content standard developed through broad consultation — not written by platforms or government alone. The gap between AI capability and regulation must close before

### DIGITAL LITERACY — Core Curriculum

How algorithms work, how to identify manipulation, how to evaluate sources, and how to maintain healthy online behaviour — taught in every Australian school from primary level. The child who understands how an algorithm captures their attention is harder to manipulate than the child who is simply banned from the platform. Education, not prohibition.

### SURVEILLANCE — Judicial Warrants Only

Australian agencies have among the broadest digital surveillance powers in the democratic world. Blanket metadata retention ends. Encryption-breaking powers subject to strict judicial oversight — no agency accesses private communications without an independent court warrant. Limited judicial oversight ends. MMP legislates a right to communicate privately.



*Free speech is not the right to be heard · It is the right not to be silenced · MMP protects it*

## CURRENT FAILURE

## MMP SOLUTION

No constitutional right to free speech — Parliament can remove any freedom it grants.

**Statutory Bill of Rights — freedom of speech, press, assembly, and religion written into law, protected from simple parliamentary majority.**

Government can define and mandate removal of "misinformation" — first used against heterodox and dissenting views.

**All misinformation legislation repealed. Platforms must be transparent, not state censors. Diversity and media literacy are the answer.**

Two companies control the majority of Australian print and broadcast media. ABC defunded.

**Cross-media ownership reformed — no single entity controls more than 30% of national media audience. ABC fully funded and independent.**

Whistleblowers prosecuted for exposing government and corporate wrongdoing. Journalists raided.

**Comprehensive whistleblower protection — no criminal prosecution for telling the truth about the powerful. Existing prosecutions reviewed.**

NBN has failed regional Australia. Farrer residents have second-class digital access to jobs, health, and services.

**Internet everywhere — SBC communications spine, sovereign SpaceX satellite deal, universal service obligation. Telcos that cannot deliver lose spectrum.**

Social media U16 ban teaches avoidance not resilience. Unenforceable — pushes kids to unmonitored platforms.

**Age-banded content design replaces ban: 8-12 curated only; 13-15 parental limits; 16-17 full access with digital literacy onboarding.**

Defamation law weaponised by wealthy individuals to silence journalists. Truth costs hundreds of thousands to prove.

**Public interest defence strengthened. Cost protection for good-faith defendants. Defamation law protects reputations — not suppresses reporting.**

Secret algorithms amplify outrage and extremism. No public accountability. Business model hidden from view.

**All platforms above minimum size publish content moderation policies and algorithmic amplification code — open source, independently audited.**

Blanket metadata retention of every Australian's online activity. Encryption-breaking without adequate judicial oversight.

**Metadata retention reviewed. Encryption-breaking powers require independent court warrant. Statutory right to privacy in Bill of Rights.**

AI deepfakes and synthetic political content unregulated. No disclosure requirements. No consent framework.

**All AI political content must be disclosed. Deepfakes without consent prohibited. National AI content standard developed through consultation.**

*"Australia does not have constitutional free speech. It has tolerance — which can be withdrawn. The algorithm that shapes what Australians read and think is a secret. The whistleblower who tells the truth faces prison. MMP writes the rights into law, opens the algorithms to public scrutiny, and delivers fast internet to every Australian regardless of where they live."*

★ **VOTE 1 — BRETT MURRELL — FARRER — SATURDAY 9 MAY 2026** ★