



# QUEENSLAND COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

Protecting Queenslanders' individual rights and liberties since 1967

*Watching Them While They're Watching You*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MEDIA RELEASE YOU WILL LOVE YOUR BIG BROTHER**

“Reports, (Courier Mail 12/3/19 page 5) that the Brisbane City Council wants to be able to monitor conversations, emphasises the need for the Law Reform Commission to recommend strong laws regulating surveillance” said QCCL President Michael Cope.

The exponential increase in the power of surveillance devices, which continues apace, means that our old laws regulating surveillance devices are no longer fit for purpose. New laws are needed to control these devices.

In its submission to the Law Reform Commission<sup>1</sup>, the QCCL called for the prohibition of the use of surveillance devices, meaning "any technological means to correlate identity data", except in certain specific circumstances, said Mr Cope.

The circumstances in which a surveillance device can be used should be restricted to where the person whose information is being collected consents, it is necessary to protect the lawful interests of the person using the device, for responsible journalism and in a number of other specific circumstances.

It should not be possible to publish information unlawfully obtained from a surveillance device, unless the person consents or a Court authorises it.

Information lawfully obtained from a surveillance device should be able published, with consent of the person to whom the information relates, in the course of legal proceedings, to a person with a reasonable interest in knowing the truth of the matter and in the context of responsible journalism.

The submission called upon the Commission to recommend the introduction into Queensland law of a general cause of action for serious breach of privacy, said Mr Cope.

**For further information contact Michael Cope President QCCL on 07 3223 5939 during office hours and at all times on 0432 847 154**

**12 March 2019**

**ENDS**

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://qccl.org.au/wiki/submission-to-qlrc-on-surveillance-laws-in-queensland/>