Greens will fight to amend metadata surveillance bill as Labor looks to have caved

Media statement
Greens spokesperson for Communications
Senator for WA Scott Ludlam
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Leaks from the committee investigating the metadata surveillance bill indicate that the Labor Party is preparing to vote with Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Attorney General George Brandis.

"The Australian Greens will wait to see the tabled report before drawing final conclusions, but Labor should expect a sharp backlash if it is seriously intending to support Tony Abbott's mass surveillance proposal," Greens Senator Scott Ludlam said.

"Labor spokespeople created an expectation that they would at the bare minimum seek to exempt journalists and their sources from the mass surveillance scheme. If they have failed to do so, then the Greens will introduce these amendments in the Senate.

"Prime Minister Abbott is terminally damaged and clutching at this flawed proposal in order to look strong and decisive. Why the Labor Party would support him when the rest of his colleagues have lost confidence is absolutely beyond belief.

"Despite hearing months of evidence that the mandatory data retention proposal is dangerous, expensive and open-ended, the Labor Party appears to have caved. Australians need an opposition to stand up against this reckless and divisive Prime Minister; but it looks like the ALP have just vacated the field."