TOUGH amendments proposed to federal laws designed to slam the lid on pedophiles and internet stalkers could leave ISPs carrying the can for "menacing, harassing or offensive" behaviour by subscribers.

The move — part of the Crimes Legislation Amendments (Telecommunications Offences and Other Measures) Bill — adds the weight of criminal law to the internet content regime, which uses a takedown system to remove offensive material.

Internet lobby groups have warned the amendments could force ISPs to make decisions on removal of content subject to complaints without an independent review.

The amendments have not yet been introduced to Parliament.

The proposal to hold ISPs liable for offensive content is a sticking point in the omnibus legislation, which also criminalises mobile-phone cloning, making death threats online, transmitting child pornography and "grooming" or procuring children.

Although the legislation indemnifies ISPs if they are not aware of offensive content, it requires them to remove content they have been made aware of.

"Possible action that could be taken by ISPs and internet content hosts so as not to facilitate use of a carriage service by another person that breaches [the legislation] includes an ISP ceasing to provide internet services to that person or an internet-content host ceasing to host a particular website containing content that breaches the proposed offence," explanatory notes on the proposed legislation read.

Internet civil liberties group Electronic Frontiers Australia warns the legislation could lead to content being removed without independent review.

"You could end up with no due process because a user can't appeal an ISP's decision," executive director Irene Graham said.

"We're back to where we were in 1997, with the Government making ISPs criminally responsible, and therefore scared."

Ms Graham said the legislation was unlikely to be taken to court, but could be used to remove content.

Internet Industry Association chief executive Peter Coroneos said the organisation supported the legislation's intent but some issues on reporting requirements would need fine-tuning.