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**15 April 2015**

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
PO Box 6100, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600  
Submitted via email: [legcon.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:legcon.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Secretary,

### **Submission regarding the Copyright Amendment (Online Infringement) Bill 2015**

Screen Producers Australia was formed by the screen industry to represent large and small enterprises across a diverse production slate of feature film, television and interactive content.

As the peak industry and trade body, we consult with a membership of more than 300 production businesses in the preparation of our submissions. This consultation is augmented by ongoing discussions with our elected Council and appointed Policy Working Group representatives. Our members employ hundreds of producers, thousands of related practitioners and drive more than \$1.7 billion worth of annual production activity from the independent sector.

On behalf of these businesses we are focused on delivering a healthy commercial environment through ongoing engagement with elements of the labour force, including directors, writers, actors and crew, as well as broadcasters, distributors and government in all its various forms. This coordinated dialogue ensures that our industry is successful, employment levels are strong and the community's expectations of access to high quality Australian content have been met.

Screen Producers Australia welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Copyright Amendment (Online Infringement) Bill, 2015. This submission follows related submissions to the Communications Alliance's draft Copyright Notice Scheme Code<sup>1</sup> and the Online Copyright Infringement Discussion Paper<sup>2</sup>.

As representatives of intellectual property creators, Screen Producers Australia strongly supports initiatives that will reduce the incidence of online copyright infringement and we offer in principle support to the proposed amendments in this Bill.

Screen Producers Australia believes that these amendments, along with a Copyright Notice Scheme, will form an important part of a holistic strategy, one that includes public education, promotion of legal alternatives and a pathway to stronger enforcement. It is the view of many rights holder groups that similar

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<sup>1</sup> Submission regarding the draft Copyright Notice Scheme: <http://screenproducersaustralia.org.au/assets/Uploads/SPA-noticescheme-FINAL230315.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Screen Producers Australia's response to the Online Copyright Infringement Discussion Paper, July 2014: <http://screenproducersaustralia.org.au/assets/Uploads/OnlineInfringement-FINAL040914.pdf>

site blocking measures have been adopted overseas and have had a positive impact. However, in regards to specific operational issues addressed in this Bill, we encourage the committee to consider the points outlined in the Australian Copyright Council the submission.

We look forward to continued engagement and if you would like to discuss any aspects of this submission please contact Matthew Hancock (Manager, Strategy and Operations)

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Deaner  
Chief Executive Officer