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11 April 2013

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
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Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

Inquiry into Australia Council Bill 2013 and related Bill

Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) is a performing right collection society established in 1926 to administer the public performance and communication rights (often referred to collectively as performing rights) of its songwriter, composer and music publisher members. APRA represents over 80,000 music creators in Australia and New Zealand alone. In addition to representing the interests of its Australasian members, APRA represents the vast majority of the world's music creators through its reciprocal agreements with similar performing right societies throughout the world.

APRA administers licences with more than 75,000 licensees which include businesses as diverse as cafes, restaurants, hotels and clubs to retailers, fitness centres, cinemas, radio and television broadcasters, digital service providers (DSPs) and internet service providers (ISPs).

In addition, APRA manages the reproduction rights business of its sister collecting society, AMCOS (Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners' Society). AMCOS represents virtually all music publishers in Australia and New Zealand and, through reciprocal arrangements, the vast majority of the world's composers, writers and music publishers. On behalf of its members, AMCOS grants licences for the reproduction of musical works. This involves collecting royalties from digital service providers, independent record companies, film-makers, educational institutions and others who record or reproduce music in some form.

APRA's and AMCOS' joint objective is to secure the fairest and highest level of payments for our members, provide the strongest defence possible of their rights and the best customer service for both our members and our licensees.

APRA | AMCOS has a longstanding and close working relationship with the Australia Council and in recent years has worked collaboratively with the Music Board and Market Development areas of the Council to deliver on a range of initiatives, including:

- *Song Cycles* report (2009): An audit of support infrastructure for Indigenous music in Australia. The Australia Council commissioned APRA to undertake the audit and produce the report.
- ATSI Music Office: As a direct result of the above research the Australia Council and APRA | AMCOS partnered to establish the ATSI Music Office in 2011.
- Sounds Australia: Australia's music market development initiative, established in 2009 to provide strategic platform to assist the Australian music industry access domestic and international business opportunities. Sounds Australia is a joint initiative of the Australia Council and APRA | AMCOS, supported by the Federal Government together with state government agencies and peak industry associations.
- Ernst & Young report, *Economic contribution of the venue-based live music industry* (2011): The Australia Council contributed funding to the research commissioned by APRA | AMCOS and undertaken by Ernst & Young.

APRA | AMCOS was invited to be a member of the Government's National Cultural Policy Taskforce and participated in the Review of the Australia Council.

APRA | AMCOS supports the Australia Council Bill 2013 and the Australia Council (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2013.

Please do not hesitate to contact me direct should the Committee require further information or assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Ormston', with a flourish at the end.

DEAN ORMSTON
HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES