

Inquiry into the National Cultural Policy hearing on 30 September 2025

Correspondence received 17 October 2025 – Ms Lucy Hayward, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Society of Authors – Clarification of evidence provided during the hearing (Proof Hansard transcript, page 47)

From Ms Hayward:

I made a note for the following exchange:

Senator HENDERSON: So Meta has entered into a contractual relationship with LibGen? **Ms Hayward:** No, they've downloaded—

Senator HENDERSON: They've just taken the works?

Ms Hayward: I'm not sure that they have, but I would assume that they've just downloaded the content. **CHAIR:** I just want to clarify—

Senator HENDERSON: Chair, I have the call. I would like to finish this.

CHAIR: Could we clarify for the *Hansard*?

Senator HENDERSON: This is a very serious theft. You've got Meta stealing the works of Australian authors, as well as works of authors from around the world. What action have you taken in relation to that conduct? That's just disgraceful.

I noted that my clarification for the Hansard was that what I was saying at this point in the exchange was:

I am not sure about the contractual relationships Meta enters into, but our assumption is they've downloaded the content from the pirated books website.