



14 August 2019

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Attention: Committee Secretariat

Re: Intellectual Property Laws Amendment (Productivity Commission Response Part 2 and Other Measures) Bill 2019

Knowledge Commercialisation Australasia (KCA) is the peak body leading best practice in industry engagement, commercialisation and entrepreneurship for research organisations. It represents a significant majority of the commercialisation offices of public sector research organisations across Australia, and works with similar bodies globally including the US, Europe and the UK to develop best practice in commercialising early stage research. This involves activities from licensing technology to existing companies, to conducting sponsored research and spinning out new companies and increasing a combination of these.

In principle, KCA is supportive of the proposed changes to the *Patents Act 1990* (Cth), including phasing out the innovation patent system but still has some concerns with the introduction of the new objects clause it is not clear exactly whose economic wellbeing is in fact to be promoted. With respect to the term 'technological innovation' in the objects clause, we have concerns that the eligibility threshold for grant of a patent could be used to narrow or change the subject matter.

We are particularly encouraged by the amendments to Crown use requiring negotiated outcomes as perceived forced/compulsory remuneration free rights under the guise of Crown use was a cause of contention amongst KCA members.

Regards,

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Director and Vice Chair (Policy)
Knowledge Commercialisation Australasia