



VILLAGE ROADSHOW

30 January 2018

To: The Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

Dear Committee members,

Inquiry into the Copyright Amendment (Service Providers) Bill 2017

As Australia's most committed producer of feature films we are forever grateful for what the Government has done to support us with site blocking. Simply stated Australia wins and the only losers are pirates who pay no taxes, employ no one and will destroy our local production industry.

In the amendments the Government has proposed a fair and reasonable scheme which provides the benefits of safe harbour protection to specific types of service providers who deserve this benefit (e.g. libraries, schools and universities, etc) while ensuring protection of copyright owners. This outcome strikes an appropriate balance on the issue. It is important that just as we are receiving favourable assistance that we extend total support for what is a good government initiative.

Village Roadshow however urges that there be no further amendments to safe harbour and in particular there is no advantage to Australia in extending safe harbour to Google. It is very unlikely given their size and power that as content owners we would ever sue them but if we don't have that right then we stand naked. Most importantly if Google do the right thing by Australia on the question of piracy then there will be no issues. However, they are very far from this position and demonstrably are facilitating crime.

Village Roadshow supports the passage of the legislation as drafted. Village Roadshow also urges the committee to recommend that these amendments to the Copyright Act constitute the final changes to the safe harbour scheme.

Yours sincerely

Graham W Burke AO
Co-Executive Chairman
Co-Chief Executive Officer