



THIRD PUBLIC HEARING ON COPYRIGHT AND ACCESS PROTECTION

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs is to hold a third public hearing examining the circumvention of protection measures controlling access to copyright material under the Australia-USA Free Trade Agreement.

The hearing will follow two public hearings already held in Sydney (14 November) and Melbourne (15 November).

Copyright owners commonly use electronic technological protection measures (TPMs) (regional coding on DVDs, encryption of software etc) to protect their product against copyright infringement. TPMs can be circumvented by a range of means. Under the Free Trade Agreement, Australia is required to implement a new liability scheme to introduce civil and criminal offences to prevent such circumvention.

In particular circumstances, exceptions to this liability scheme permitting TPM circumvention will be created. The Committee, chaired by Peter Slipper MP, will hold the public hearing in **Canberra** on **28 November** to continue its examination of whether other exceptions should be considered.

“The Committee has already heard from a range of interested parties including copyright owner organisations, copyright users, academics, and IT professionals”, said Mr Slipper. “In Canberra we will continue the process by hearing from the Department of Parliamentary Services, the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee, the Australian Digital Alliance, and the Australian Libraries’ Copyright Committee”, Mr Slipper said.

The hearing will be held at Parliament House in **Committee Room 2R3**.

A fourth and final public hearing for the inquiry is planned for 5 December.

For interview:

Please contact the Committee Chairman, Peter Slipper MP on (02) 6277 4975 (Canberra) or in his electorate on (07) 5443 3555.

Or Mr Slipper’s media adviser, Richard Bruinsma on 0417 486673.

For background information, including the full terms of reference, a background paper and copies of submissions when they become available, please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2358 or visit the inquiry website at

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/index.htm