The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Advisory Report on Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Bill 1999

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

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Foreword

The introduction of digital technology has a major impact on many aspects of modern life, especially the enhanced communication of ideas and information.

This report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs is the result of a brief, but intense, study of the Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Bill 1999. The Committee recognises that this Bill presents the most significant amendment to Australia's copyright law since the passage of the Copyright Act itself in 1968. Redefining the bundle of property rights that is copyright, in the context of emerging digital technologies, is a complex task.

The Committee endorses the stated aim of Australia's copyright legislation in seeking to support an appropriate balance between the competing public interests of promoting creative endeavour and allowing reasonable access to copyright material. The Committee supports much of the Bill as it was introduced to Parliament. However, the Committee recommends some readjustments to the balance of interests, as suggested by the Bill, because of the perceived increased risk of copyright infringement within a digital environment.

The decision to provide a work in a digital form, should be a considered decision of the copyright owner. The Committee considers that the ability to control the first digitisation of a work, at the frontier between the print and digital environments, is a fundamental principle that should be given special recognition under copyright law. The measures proposed in this report not only provide a statement of support for copyright owners, but recognise the special access needs of users.

Kevin Andrews MP Chair

Membership of the Committee

Chair	Mr Kevin Andrews MP
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	Hon Duncan Kerr MP
	Ms Kirsten Livermore MP
	Mr John Murphy MP
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Terms of reference

The Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Bill 1999 was introduced into the House of Representatives on 2 September 1999.

The Attorney-General wrote to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs referring the Bill for inquiry, and requesting it to report during the week beginning 6 December 1999.

List of abbreviations

ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
ACA	Australian Consumers' Association
ACC	Australian Copyright Council
ACCESS	Architects, Construction and Consulting Engineers Specialist Services
ADA	Australian Digital Alliance
AGD	Attorney-General's Department
ALCC	Australian Libraries Copyright Committee
ALIA	Australian Library Information Association
ALLG	Australian Law Librarians' Group
APA	Australian Publishers Association
APRA	Australasian Performing Right Association
ARIA	Australian Record Industry Association
ASA	Australian Society of Authors
ASDA	Australian Screen Directors Association
ASDACS	Australian Screen Directors Authorship Collecting Society

AVCC	Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee
BSA	Broadcasting Services Act 1992
BSAA	Business Software Association of Australia
CAL	Copyright Agency Limited
CASL	Council of Australian State Libraries
CAUL	Council of Australian University Librarians
CCG	Copyright Convergence Group
CLRC	Copyright Law Review Committee
DCITA	Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
EC	European Community
ELR	Educational Lending Right
FACTS	Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations
FARB	Federation of Australian Radio Broadcasters
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
iffro	International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisation
IIPA	International Intellectual Property Alliance
ISP	Internet Service Provider
MCEETYA	Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs
MPA	Motion Picture Association
NLA	National Library of Australia
PPCA	Phonographic Performance Company of Australia
SAGE-AU	System Administrators Guild of Australia
SISA	Supporters of Interoperable Systems in Australia

- TRIPS Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
- WIPO World Intellectual Property Organisation
- WCT WIPO Copyright Treaty
- WPPT WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty