



Submission to the
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement

14 February 2012

APRA and AMCOS (APRA|AMCOS) appreciate the opportunity to make a short submission on Australia's accession to the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (**ACTA**).

We support Australia's participation in the ACTA.

Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) is a performing right collection society established in 1926 to administer the public performance and communication rights (often referred to collectively as performing rights) of its songwriter, composer and music publisher members. APRA represents over 69,000 music creators in Australia and New Zealand alone. In addition to representing the interests of its Australasian members, APRA represents the vast majority of the world's music creators through its reciprocal agreements with similar performing right societies throughout the world.

APRA administers licences with more than 75,000 licensees which include businesses as diverse as cafes, restaurants, hotels and clubs to retailers, fitness centres, cinemas, radio and television broadcasters, digital service providers (DSPs) and internet service providers (ISPs).

In addition, APRA manages the reproduction rights business of its sister collecting society, AMCOS (Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners' Society). AMCOS represents virtually all music publishers in Australia and New Zealand and, through reciprocal arrangements, the vast majority of the world's composers, writers and music publishers. On behalf of its members, AMCOS grants licences for the reproduction of musical works. This involves collecting royalties from digital service providers, independent record companies, film-makers, educational institutions and others who record or reproduce music in some form.

APRA's and AMCOS' joint objective is to secure the fairest and highest level of payments for our members, provide the strongest defence possible of their rights and the best customer service for both our members and our licensees.

We refer to the submissions made by the Australian Copyright Council (ACC) and Music Industry Piracy Investigations (MIPI). APRA|AMCOS is a founding member of both organisations and represented on ACC Board and MIPI Management Committee. We endorse the views expressed in their respective submissions.

A vibrant culture values and respects its creators, recognising the importance of their contribution to local cultural and economic diversity. Accordingly, global action in relation to the protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) is imperative, accompanied by a long term education strategy addressing creator's rights.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact:

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