

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Group: 2

Program 1.1

Question No. SBE14/170

Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 20 November and 11 December 2014 hearings.

1. Will the Government formally respond to the ALRC's report on copyright? If so, when?
2. Is the Government still considering the adoption of a fair use exception, as recommended by the ALRC? If so, what steps is the Government taking to finalise a policy?
3. Why has the Government not proceeded with the extension of the safe harbour scheme as it proposed in its Discussion Paper in September?
4. Please provide a breakdown of submissions to the Government's consultation process on copyright reform:
 - a) How many submissions were received?
 - b) How many from industry/NGOs and civil society groups/academics and experts/private citizens?
 - c) How many submissions in each of the categories in [b] supported the extension of the safe harbour scheme?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1. There is no requirement for the Government to formally respond to Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) reports.
2. The Government is considering the ALRC report and its recommendations.
3. The Government decided not to pursue this proposal in the context of online copyright infringement as it is related to broader issues.
4.
 - a) 724
 - b) Industry: 42
NGOs: 57
Academics: 6
Individuals: 619
 - c) Most submissions did not specifically comment on the safe harbour proposal. Some internet intermediaries (for example, Google and Facebook) and providers of private internet access (such as educational institutions) supported the proposal.