

**screenrights**

31 May 2005



Mr Owen Walsh  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT 2600

Dear Owen

**Inquiry Into The Provisions Of The Copyright Amendment (Film Directors Rights) Bill 2005**

I am writing with respect to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee inquiry into the provisions of the *Copyright Amendment (Film Directors' Rights) Bill 2005*.

Screenrights is a non-profit copyright collecting society for rights holders in film, script, music, sound recordings of music and artistic works in film, television and radio programs. Screenrights administers copyright royalties collected under provisions in the Australian and New Zealand Copyright Acts.

Screenrights has been declared by the Attorney-General to collect educational royalties under Part VA and VB of the Copyright Act and has been declared by the Copyright Tribunal to collect royalties for government copying under s183 of the Copyright Act. As a declared society, our operations are overseen by the Attorney-General who tables our Annual Report. We also adhere to the voluntary code of conduct for collecting societies. If the committee would like to know more about these aspects of our operations I would invite them to visit our website [www.screen.org](http://www.screen.org).

Relevantly for the purposes of this consultation process, Screenrights is the declared society for the purposes of administering Part VC (or the retransmission statutory licence provisions) of the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth). Screenrights is currently before the Copyright Tribunal seeking a determination as to the value of equitable remuneration. The Tribunal is still hearing evidence from Screenrights and from the 'retransmitters', who include Foxtel, Optus and Austar, under Part VC of the Copyright Act.

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Screenrights is the trading name of  
The Audio-Visual Copyright Society  
Limited ACN 003 912 310  
ABN 76 003 912 310

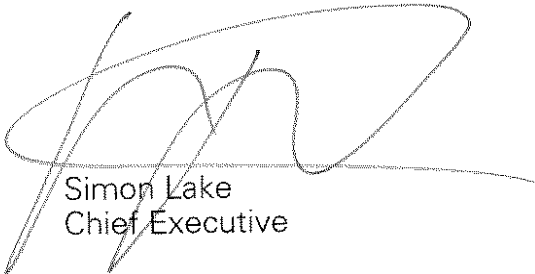
As a trustee, it is Screenrights' role to collect and distribute royalties in an accurate, efficient and unbiased manner. In light of this role, it would be inappropriate for Screenrights to comment as to the substantive provisions or policy basis of the *Copyright Amendment (Film Directors' Rights) Bill 2005*.

From a procedural point of view, however, the current Bill appears conducive to the efficient administration of the resultant Part VC copyright royalties.

In the interests of administrative efficiency, Screenrights would, of course, wish to be consulted further if the substantive provisions of the Bill were to be amended following this inquiry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission and please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Simon Lake', written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Simon Lake  
Chief Executive

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