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Professor Jill McKeough
Commissioner, Copyright Inquiry
Australian Law Reform Commission
GPO Box 3708
Sydney NSW 2001

By email: info@alrc.gov.au

Dear Professor McKeough

Re: Copyright and the Digital Economy (IP 42)

I write on behalf of the SCSEEC Chair, the Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP concerning the Australian Law Reform Commission's (ALRC) Copyright and Digital Economy inquiry.

In November 2012, the SCSEEC Copyright Advisory Group (CAG) (Schools) made a submission to the ALRC in response to Issues Paper: Copyright and the Digital Economy (IP 42) (number 231 in the Commissions list of submissions). The submission carries the endorsement of the Australian Education, Early Childhood and Youth Affairs Senior Officials Committee (AEEYSOC).

The CAG proposal was also recently considered and endorsed by SCSEEC Education Ministers, with the Minister responsible for school education in each State and Territory and the Australian Government expressing support for the submission and its recommendations, namely:

- to revoke the current Australian educational statutory licences (to be replaced by voluntary commercial licences and new copyright exceptions)
- to introduce a new "fairness" based exception into Australian copyright law, permitting limited additional free copying of content by schools.

The appropriateness of exceptions and statutory licenses under Copyright legislation in the digital environment is especially important to the school education sector and I trust the CAG submission will assist the ALRC with its deliberations.

If I can provide any further assistance regarding the above matters, please do not hesitate to contact me on (03) 9639 0588 or at steve.metcalf@scseec.edu.au

Yours sincerely

Steve Metcalfe
Secretary