311. A Woods

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Woods

Subject: Re:ALRC's Discussion Paper on revising the Copyright Act

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Andrew Woods and I am an author.

For the past 23 years I have written and had published many educational text books aimed at Primary and Secondary aged students. My productivity in this area has been such that I have been able to work full time as an author receiving income in royalties and through the schools distribution of the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL).

During the course of my writing I have been published, and continue to be published, by Pearson Australia, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press and a number of other small independent publishers. The success of my work has led to me being referred to by my publishers as a 'renowned author' of this genre. I do not write this as a gloat but rather to give you an indication of the time, effort and skill I put into my work in order to achieve success in the market place.

As indicated above my income is generated by royalties and CAL distributions. Royalties account for approximately 10% of my total annual income while the remainder (about 90%) is made up of CAL distributions. As I am a full time author you can see that without copyright-based income I could not possibly continue to write as a full time author.

Many of my books contain extracts or artwork by other authors and illustrators and I am contractually obligated by my publishers to make payments through royalty deductions for permission to use other creators' works. This is the fair thing to do.

As such I would also expect that, should my work be copied or utilised in any other way, then the fair thing would be for permission to be sought from me for that use and, if negotiated, payment to be made to me.

I am writing to you as an author and member of the Australian Society of Authors in the hope that the above might be taken into consideration when discussing the revision of the Copyright Act and in particular the possible removal of statutory licences from the Act.

Put simply and I repeat to emphasise, without income from the schools distribution by the Copyright Agency Limited, I cannot possibly continue to work full time as an author.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Woods