489.\_org\_ Community Newspaper Australia

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|   | To whom it may concern,Submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission on its Issues Paper:Copyright and the Digital Economy Community Newspapers of Australia is an industry organisation of over 150 community newspapers representing all corners of Australia and supported by all major publishing groups (Fairfax, News Ltd, StarNews, Torch, NewsLocal, Leader etc). As you are no doubt aware, newspapers are currently facing significant challenges to their existing business model with advertising revenues dropping and staffing levels under pressure. The proposed changes to the Copyright Laws will add further pressures and challenges to those already being faced. All our member publishers invest significantly in grass roots journalism and photography, an investment which differentiates us from the untrained and unscrupulous. This community level empathy is difficult to find elsewhere. We employ large numbers of creative staff as journalists, photographers and illustrators and we believe the content we create, if used by other parties, should be compensated with payments to the publishers. Why should 3rd parties be able to simply take the work that publishers have financed, and use it without cost?We believe we provide a valuable service and contribution to the community and anything which threatens our income will, inevitably, threaten our very existence. Without a local paper the community then suffers. We have always supported the existence of the Copyright Act as it endeavours to protect us against the theft of our creative content. We think it's essential to ensure that original materials continue to be created and that business models dependant on the protection of copyright remain viable and proper recompense is made for the use of copyrighted materials. The current statutory licence regime is an efficient and fair method by which copyright holders receive payment for use of their content by educational facilities and government agencies and we see no reason for its removal. Likewise, we see no reason for the introduction of a new ‘fair use‘ copyright exemption and the repeal of the current copyright exemption. We view this proposal as a worrying diminution in the protection of copyright holders which severely undervalues the significant investments we make in quality journalism and photography. With this in mind, Community Newspapers Australia does not support the introduction of a new ‘fair use‘ copyright exemption or the repeal of the current copyright exemption. In conclusion, the committee of Community Newspapers Australia does not support the proposed amendments. We believe they will unduly affect those organisations and individuals who rely upon protection of their copyright for their economic livelihood.Best regardsKim KohenCNA Co-ordinator and DirectorCommunity Newspapers of Australia[www.cna.org.au](http://www.cna.org.au)0411 796 560 |   |

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