498. B Aitken

**From:** Bruce Aitken  **Subject:** ALRC proposed changes to copyright law

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in receipt of various articles and communications in regards to the proposed repeal of statutory licences relating to copyright law which allow both educational and government departments the right to copy in return for fair payment to writers, artists and publishers.

In my role as Finance Manager for an established publisher who has represented authors of educational materials for over 30 years, I am writing to you to object to such a proposal. The following is the basis of my objection:

* Our company will bear financial impact and will be forced to move to reduce staff numbers, those of which who would be released hold industry specific skills. As other publishers I could only guess would follow same, these employees would find it very difficult to gain similar employment within the industry, let alone employment of a similar nature.
* Authors would also bear a significant effect on revenue streams, and those who are currently creating exceptional products I can only imagine would cease to continue. It would also suppress any current authors for future works and anyone planning to enter this market. No one, and I do repeat, no one can afford or would even be willing to enter a market where income is significantly diminished due to such a proposal.
* I personally do not see significant returns (currently or historically) to the authors we represent. Whilst figures budgeted by educational and /or government departments may cumulate, final returns to authors I do not see in any case could be deemed as large. I would hope that in this regard some of the final returns to authors have been reviewed (or sampled) as even within the current framework, I do not see the individual income as either desirable or one that would sustain in most cases day to day living.
* Our company (and the authors it represents) is already feeling the effect of technological change. Protection of copying a persons intellectual property is becoming increasingly more and more difficult due to the various technological avenues. It is essential that via the current licence whereby copying of a “work(s)” must be reported, remains. It is allowing the employment of a commercial relationship between consumer and supplier, whereby demand can be monitored/recorded and supply regenerated.

I appeal to ALRC’s assistance in overturning any such proposal.

Regards,

**Bruce Aitken**