**OZDOX** **Submission to the ALRC Inquiry into Copyright in the Digital Economy from Ozdox: the Australian Documentary Forum.**

**31st July, 2013**

Ozdox is a voluntary organisation of documentary filmmakers, which for the last eight years has educated both filmmakers and the public on documentary issues through monthly seminars. Our committee members include both established filmmakers and those who are just making their mark. For further information we refer you to our website: [www.ozdox.org](http://www.ozdox.org/).

We regret not learning about the possibility of commenting on the Inquiry's proposals earlier. Now because of time constraints, our submission can only be very brief.  However, we would be happy for our representatives to speak to the Review in person should that be appropriate.

At this juncture, we have one point to put to you:

We, like the majority of documentary makers who produce the films bringing Australian realities and viewpoints to our screens, rely on the income we receive via Screenrights from educational copying and retransmission of our films. This income is crucial to our sustainability as filmmakers and enables us to continue to make relevant and quality work.

The current system of statutory licenses works simply and fairly and it would be a blow to the viability of Australian documentary were this system to be changed in such a way as to decrease rights holders' payments and copyright protection. We see no case for any of the uses covered by statutory licenses to be covered by a free use exception.

Ozdox committee members who also teach in tertiary institutions have had no problems with legal copying for educational purposes through these institutions. Again, the system works simply and fairly and appears to be technologically neutral.

Both as rights-holders and as teachers we dread the introduction of a broad-ranging fair use proposal, which will introduce uncertainty and even chaos into the system. As teachers it would be difficult to determine what is fair use; as filmmakers it would be onerous to face the expense and the pressure of trying to defend our copyright through the courts.

We urge the ALRC to re-think their proposal in favour of building on the strengths of the current system, which protect and enhance the work both of copyright holders and of educators.

Yours sincerely,

OZDOX Committee and Membership

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