



Country Press New South Wales Inc.
Australia's oldest newspaper industry association
Founded 1900

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**Submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission on its Issues Paper:
*Copyright and the Digital Economy***

Country Press New South Wales (CPNSW) is the membership body for New South Wales' non-daily country newspapers. CP NSW represents over 130 papers across New South Wales including Western Australian affiliates.

CP NSW welcomes the opportunity to lodge a submission to the ALRC's Issues Paper: *Copyright and the Digital Economy*

CP NSW believes that proper maintenance of the Copyright Act is essential to ensure that original materials continue to be created, that business models dependant on the protection of copyright remain viable and proper recompense is made for the use of copyrighted materials. We believe that the current Copyright Act provides these sureties.

CP NSW is concerned that the proposed amendments contained in the ALRC's Issues Paper will undo these sureties, create unnecessary confusion and water down the rights of copyright holders and in turn unduly affect those organisations and individuals who rely upon protection of their copyright for their economic livelihood.

Specifically, the CP NSW does not support either of:

- The repeal of the current statutory licence regime; and
- The introduction of a new 'fair use' copyright exemption and the repeal of the current copyright exemptions.

The current statutory licence regime is an efficient and fair method by which copyright holders receive payment for use of their copyright by educational facilities and government agencies. CP NSW does not see any reason for its proposed removal and thus does not support its removal.

The introduction of a new 'fair use' copyright exemption and the repeal of the current copyright exemptions does nothing to support or protect copyright holders. 'Fair use' is a subjective term which will lead to increased costs for the protection of copyright and in turn a softening of the rights of all copyright holders. CP NSW does not see any reason for the introduction of a 'fair use' exemption nor the removal of the current copyright exemptions and thus does not support this proposal.

Yours faithfully

Country Press New South Wales