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## PROVINCIAL PRESS GROUP

30 July 2013

### PUBLICATIONS

- WANGARATTA CHRONICLE
- NORTH EAST MOTOR GUIDE
- NORTH EAST PROPERTY GUIDE
- NORTH EAST TOURIST NEWS
- OVENS & MURRAY ADVERTISER (BEECHWORTH)
- MYRTLEFORD TIMES
- BRIGHT OBSERVER
- KIRWA VALLEY OBSERVER
- MT HOTHAM-FALLS CREEK NEWS
- MANSFIELD COURIER
- MT BULLER NEWS
- NORTH EAST & GOULBURN MURRAY FARMER
- SOUTHERN FARMER
- AUSTRALIAN ALPINE NEWS
- MOUNTAIN VIEWS MAIL
- UPPER YARRA MAIL
- RANGES TRADER MAIL
- FERNTREEGULLY-BELGRAVE MAIL
- MOUNT EVELYN MAIL
- YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES TOURIST NEWS
- AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND WINE INDUSTRY DIRECTORY
- AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND GRAPEGROWER & WINEMAKER
- WINE AND VITICULTURE JOURNAL
- DAILY WINE NEWS.COM.AU
- AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND OLIVEGROWER & PROCESSOR
- AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND OLIVE INDUSTRY DIRECTORY
- AUSTRALIAN FORESTS & TIMBER NEWS
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INDEPENDENT  
& AUSTRALIAN  
OWNED

Dr Jill McKeough  
Law Reform Commissioner

Fax: (02) 8238 6363

Dear Jill

### Re: ALRC proposed changes to copyright entitlements.

We are writing to object to the Commission's recommendations for changes to Copyright entitlement to Publishers including the repeal of the Statutory Licence.

While we understand that you may have been influenced by those who argue that free and cheap distribution of content is a characteristic of the digital age, we can not accept the evidentiary bar being set so low for the proponents of change.

Further it is unacceptable to reduce the incomes of writers and publishers which would have the potential to create chaos and litigation in the industry and education sector.

We understand from the Goski Report that out of the \$10,000-\$13,600 it takes to educate a school student every year, less that \$17 is spent on copied and shared content (and similar numbers apply to universities and TAFE). The new recommendations would reduce this and put the onus on creators to protect their rights and prove abuse.

The Statutory Licence is supported by teachers who find its invisibility and ease of use beneficial in their working day. The Statutory Licence means there is neither misunderstanding nor illegal usage.

Change in technology has already been taken into account by this system and it is simply unfair to the providers of content for the ALRC to try to use technological change as an excuse to erode or remove the rights of those who invest time, money and skills into creating material that others wish to use.

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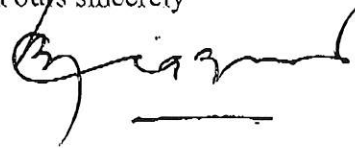
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We urge the current system be maintained because it is a system that fairly compensates us as publishers each year for the content we create. In a challenging period for print publishers, there is simply no capacity to water down copyright payments to both newspapers and specialists rural industry magazines, which our family group publishes.

Australia has a fair and efficient system in place already, one that benefits both the user and the creator. Content is created with manually intensive staffing levels and if copyright income is reduced this will result in even greater rationalization of regional publishing staff with little prospect for other employment.

Yours sincerely



Hartley Higgins  
Managing Director

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