855. G Hardman

To: Australian Law Reform Commission

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Copyright and the Digital Economy Discussion Paper. As a screen composer and a creator of content, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this discussion.

The current system should be retained as it is works well for both the user and the creator. It is both fair and effective.

The Statutory Licence system works particularly well, ensuring there is no misunderstanding or illegal use within the education sector. As a creator, I believe it is only fair that I have same rights as any other group whose intellectual property is used by educational institutions.

I am concerned that the proposed changes will reduce the opportunities for creators, such as myself, to license and receive a fair return for my work. It will also reduce my ability to retain artistic control over my works; and put the burden on me to take expensive legal action to protect my rights. The current system is fair to both the creator and the user, and should be retained.

It should also be recognised that copyright is essential for creation and innovation. Copyright encourages creativity as it is fundamental to being able to have a sustainable career as a creative.

As one of the creator of works that so many business rely on and make money out of, I strongly believe that it is essential we are part of the discussion and thanks again for the opportunity to be part of this.

At the moment, due to limited opportunities in the film and television industries, I rely on every royalty generated through my previous works to sustain my living, as I'm sure would be the case with many other of my peers. The current copyright licensing system should be retained, and as it isn't broken, there's no need to fix it.

Signed,

Garry Hardman