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The Director  
Copyright Law Section  
Department of Communications and the Arts  
GPO Box 2154  
Canberra ACT 2601

**By email:** [copyright.consultation@communications.gov.au](mailto:copyright.consultation@communications.gov.au)

Dear Director,

### **Review of Copyright Online Infringement Amendment**

We refer to the call for submissions in response to the review of the Copyright Amendment (*Online Infringement*) Act 2015 (the **Review**), and thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation which is of great importance to the Australian music industry.

ARIA is the peak trade body for the recorded music industry in Australia. It is a national industry association proactively representing the interests of its members.

ARIA has more than 100 members ranging from small "boutique" labels typically run by 1-5 people, to medium sized organisations and very large companies with international affiliates.

ARIA is active in many key areas of the music industry:

- acting as an advocate for the industry, both domestically and internationally;
- supporting Australian music, and creating opportunities to help it be heard;
- playing an active role in protecting copyright and making submissions to government on copyright reform, piracy, regulation and other issues where it has the information and expertise to do so;
- collecting statistical information from members and retailers and compiling numerous ARIA charts with data provided by retailers and data suppliers across the country;
- providing, in certain cases, a reproduction licensing function for various copyright users; and
- staging the highly prestigious annual ARIA Awards.



ARIA's primary objective is to advance the interests of the Australian recording industry. The role of ARIA is not to monitor, supervise or intervene in the pricing or other commercial decisions of its members.

ARIA works very closely with Music Rights Australia (**MRA**) in relation to the promotion and protection of the rights of Australian music creators and performers, primarily through the areas of advocacy and education. In this context, ARIA supports and endorses the submission made by MRA to this Review.

At the time of its enactment, ARIA commended the Government for recognising the importance of addressing the issue of online copyright infringement through the introduction of the Copyright Amendment (Online Infringement) Act 2015 (**Online Infringement Amendment**). As ARIA has previously noted in submissions made to the Government, the pervasiveness of online copyright infringement has a detrimental impact on ARIA's members and Australian recording artists. ARIA remains supportive of the Online Infringement Amendment and notes the positive impact the legislation has made in helping to reduce piracy by disrupting access to the sites against which site blocking orders have been made.

As stated in the submission made to this Review by MRA, it is ARIA's view that it would be premature to make any further changes to this site blocking regime. The Government would be best placed to undertake a formal review of the Online Infringement Amendment in at least 18 months' time. This will provide all stakeholders with the opportunity to assess the efficacy of the Online Infringement Amendment and to provide more comprehensive data on the effectiveness of this site blocking regime over a longer period of time.

ARIA is grateful for the opportunity that has been provided by the Department to participate in this Review, and we look forward to working collaboratively with the Department through participation in the stakeholder consultations.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Rosen  
Chief Executive Officer