



**ACT**  
Government

Territory and Municipal Services

Your Ref: (if applicable)  
Our Ref: (TRIM No.)

Copyright Law and Policy Section  
Department of Communications and the Arts  
GPO Box 2154  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Copyright Amendment (Disability Access and Other Measures) Bill 2016**

I am writing in support of the amendments proposed by the Copyright Amendment (Disability Access and Other Measures) Bill 2016 (the Bill). These amendments are important and long overdue and will provide significant benefits for copyright users in Australia, including libraries and archives, educational institutions and the disability and tech sectors.

Libraries ACT includes the nine public libraries in the ACT as well as the ACT Heritage Library. The Heritage Library holds the statiana collections for Canberra and we therefore hold many important resources that are impacted by the constraints of the Copyright legislation as it stands.

We thank the Department for the opportunity to comment on the exposure draft of the Bill.

We strongly support the changes proposed in the exposure draft. It contains positive reforms which update a number of provisions of the Act that are currently onerous or unworkable. The simplification objectives of the Bill are particularly welcomed and will assist in achieving a more efficient, effective and adaptable copyright regime.

In particular, we support the Bill's move to:

- simplify and expand current disability provisions, particularly the replacement of s200AB with a new fair dealing provision and current disability statutory licences with one exception for institutions to provide access by persons with a disability;
- replace the current preservation copying exceptions for libraries and archives with simplified specific exceptions that are uniform across all materials, do not restrict format or number of copies, and apply to all activities necessary for preservation;
- simplify and modernise the Part VA and Part VB educational statutory licences by consolidating them and removing onerous administrative requirements that undermine the ability of parties to negotiate suitable and flexible solutions for licence management;
- expand the ISP safe harbour regime to include other service providers, including libraries and archives, educational institutions, institutions assisting those with a disability and online services such as Facebook and Youtube;
- end perpetual copyright in unpublished works and offer some guidance on the use of orphan works where the author is unknown.

We support the comments provided in the joint submission by the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee and the Australian Digital Alliance on the specific detail and technicality of the Bill's drafting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or seek further information on any aspect of this letter.

Regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa Little', written in a cursive style.

Vanessa Little  
Director, Libraries ACT  
12 February 2016