



19 August 2016

Senator the Hon. Mitch Fifield  
Minister for Communications  
Minister for Arts  
Manager of Government Business in the Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Cc: Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister  
Hon. Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science  
Hon. Craig Laundy, Assistant Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science  
Senator, the Hon. Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training

Dear Minister,

We wish to congratulate you on your re-election to parliament and return to the positions of Minister for Communications, Minister for Arts and Manager of Government Business in the Senate.

As you know, representatives of our sectors joined together earlier this year to write to you in support of the exposure draft of the Copyright Amendment (Disability Access and Other Measures) Bill. We welcome your commitment, in your press release dated 25 May 2016 ("Conjecture on Copyright Changes Unfounded") to introducing this Bill at the start of the new term of Parliament.

The education, cultural and technology sectors continue our strong support of the safe harbour amendments included in this Bill. These amendments will give Australian online service providers - from schools, universities and libraries to technology companies - the same legal protections that currently apply to their counterparts overseas and commercial ISPs in Australia. It will encourage service providers and copyright owners to work together to fight piracy, increasing legal certainty and minimising compliance costs. It will free up Australian businesses to develop new and innovative services and allow our libraries, schools and universities to focus on providing world class services without unnecessary legal exposure.

We note that the Bill also contains important amendments to benefit Australians with a disability which relate to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled. As this treaty is due to come into force on 30 September 2016, the tabling of the Bill before this date would seem particularly advantageous, as a demonstration of Australia's commitment to international best practice in equality of access to knowledge.

Again, we commend you on the Bill and the reforms that would result. These reforms are essential to foster the development of Australia's digital economy and ensure all Australians share in its benefits. We welcome and support the Bill's introduction into Parliament at the earliest opportunity this year.

Yours faithfully



Derek Whitehead  
Chair, Australian Digital Alliance

On behalf of:

- Australian Digital Alliance
- Australian Catholic University
- Australian Information Industry Association
- Australian Libraries and Information Association
- Australian Libraries Copyright Committee
- Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology
- Council of Australian University Libraries
- DIGI
- Digital Rights Watch
- eBay
- Electronic Frontiers Australia
- Envato
- Google
- Group of Eight
- La Trobe University
- LinkedIn
- Microsoft
- National and State Libraries Association
- Redbubble
- Society of University Lawyers
- StartupAus
- Twitter
- Universities Australia
- University of Western Sydney