

**THE COALITION OF MAJOR PROFESSIONAL AND PARTICIPATION SPORTS
INCORPORATED**

**SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

INQUIRY INTO COPYRIGHT AMENDMENT (SERVICE PROVIDERS) BILL 2017

30 JANUARY 2018



INTRODUCTION

COMPPS consists of the following organisations:

- Australian Football League (**AFL**);
- Cricket Australia (**CA**);
- Football Federation Australia (**FFA**);
- National Rugby League (**NRL**);
- Netball Australia (**NA**);
- Rugby Australia (**RA**); and
- Tennis Australia (**TA**).

These sports play a huge role in developing, promoting and presenting sport in Australia from the grass roots through to the international level. They are not-for-profit bodies and are responsible for the long-term development and sustainability of their sports.

Each of these organisations is the governing body and custodian of a major professional sport in Australia. They are mass participation sports - between them, they have over 9 million participants and 16,000 clubs.

COMPPS members provide a wide range of public benefits through a self-funding business model. A large portion of the revenue of COMPPS members is devoted to enhancing, promoting and developing sport for all Australians both at national and 'grassroots' level.

COMPPS INTEREST IN THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LEGISLATION *Copyright Act 1968 (Cth)* (the 'Safe Harbour Scheme')

Copyright is crucial to the exploitation and licensing by COMPPS members of media rights to the major sporting competitions and events, and the management and exploitation of other content and rights controlled by COMPPS members. Strong and enforceable intellectual property laws are very important to the current and future activities, success and sustainability of COMPPS members.

COMPPS has made submissions on the safe harbour provisions issue previously, specifically in its 2014 submissions to the Attorney-General's review of online copyright infringement and in 2016 as part of its submission to the Productivity Commission.

COMPPS POSITION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LEGISLATION

The position of COMPPS in relation to the Safe Harbour Scheme was discussed at the meeting with representatives of the Department of Communications and the Arts and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in Canberra on 15 May 2017. COMPPS appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion and consultations on the legislation, and the fair hearing by departmental officials.

We support the proposed amendments, and we note the definition of service provider has been changed to add 'educational institutions, cultural institutions, libraries and disability service providers'. We believe this is a good outcome for all parties.

However, we note in the 2nd reading speech the door is left ajar for future reviews and further broadening of the safe harbour provisions, however, we do not believe this should be the case and urge the Government to close this option.

We thank the Government for listening to our views during the process, and believe the matter does not require further review.

Yours sincerely

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

Malcolm Speed AO
Executive Director