



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Customs and  
Border Protection Service**

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Customs House  
5 Constitution Avenue  
Canberra City 2601

Ms Julie Dennett  
Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**Inquiry into the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games)  
Amendment (R 18+ Computer Games) Bill 2012**

I refer to your email of 2 March 2011, inviting input into the above Inquiry.

Customs and Border Protection would like to thank you for the opportunity to put forward our comments in relation to the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Amendment (R 18+ Computer Games) Bill 2012*.

The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) has policy responsibility for the classification of films, publications and computer games and other goods. Customs and Border Protection administers import (and export) controls on objectionable material at the border, on behalf of AGD.

If any recommendation is considered to alter the guidelines as to what is deemed to be Refused Classification material, equivalent amendments are required to the Customs Regulations to ensure that the controls at the border are consistent with the domestic controls.

Customs and Border Protection has worked closely with AGD on the development of the Bill, and was provided with the opportunity to raise any issues of concern through that process. Our two agencies have also worked together on the complimentary amendment to the Customs Regulations that will be required to give effect to the Bill, and drafting has already commenced.

Certain games will continue to be prohibited from import or export, including games containing content that promotes drug use or sexual violence, however this is a matter that will be considered during the course of developing new guidelines following the amendment to the Regulations.

The implications for Customs and Border Protection as a result of the Bill are minimal, and we support both the Bill and the consequential amendments to the Customs Regulations.

Customs and Border Protection would be pleased to provide any further advice the Committee may require in relation to the operation of Customs legislation on classification matters.

The contact officer for further enquiries is  
Regulation Branch. He may be contact on

within the Trade Policy and  
or

Sharon Nyakuengama  
A/g National Director  
Trade and Compliance Division

9 March 2012