



## REGIONAL CODING OF DVDS UNDER REVIEW

Copyright owners commonly use technological protection measures (TPM) (regional coding on DVDs, encryption of software, passwords etc) to protect their product against copyright infringement. TPMs can be disabled by a range of means. Under the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement Australia is required to implement a new liability scheme to introduce civil and criminal remedies to prevent such circumvention.

In a small number of circumstances such circumvention is allowed. The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, chaired by Peter Slipper MP, has been asked by the Attorney-General to see if any additional exceptions should be sought under the AUSFTA.

“The AUSFTA allows a limited number of circumstances where circumvention is permitted and it is possible for additional exceptions to be made, providing strict criteria are met” said Mr Slipper. “We will be examining whether Australia should create additional exceptions”.

“While this is a very technical inquiry, the Committee is interested in hearing from not only copyright owners and developers but also users of copyright material such as libraries and educational institutions”.

The Committee has been asked to report by the end of February 2006. Members of the public will be able to make submissions in writing to the Committee until 7 October. Public hearings will be held in October and November.

### **For interview:**

Please contact the Committee Chairman, Peter Slipper MP on (02) 6277 4975 (Canberra) or in his electorate on (07) 5443 3555.  
Or Mr Slipper’s media adviser, Richard Bruinsma on 0417 486673.

**For background information**, including the full terms of reference, a background paper and copies of submissions when they become available, please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2358 or visit the inquiry website at

[www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/index.htm)