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25 February 2011

Ms Sharon Bird
Committee Chair
The House of Representatives Infrastructure and
Communications Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: ic.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Bird

Inquiry into the role and potential benefits of the National Broadband Network

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments on the "role and potential benefits" of the National Broadband Network (**NBN**) to the House of Representatives Infrastructure and Communications Committee.

The Australian Recording Industry Association (**ARIA**) is the peak trade body for the recorded music industry in Australia. We have over 100 members ranging from the local affiliates of the four major international record companies through to significant Australian independent record labels and a substantial number of smaller Australian record labels.

ARIA broadly welcomes and supports the NBN as creating an opportunity to grow the digital economy in Australia, and provide a world-class platform for the content industries to deliver their works. As digital revenues become an increasingly important part of Australia's recorded music industry, the NBN can help to drive new innovative business models and delivery methods.

However, while the opportunity for growth in the new NBN-enabled economy is significant, the rollout of fast broadband access also has the potential to exacerbate the threats to innovation and investment in online content. The lack of online copyright protection and subsequent rise in illegal activity has been of major concern to the recorded music industry in Australia for a number of years. It is important that in an NBN environment, there is a framework that protects online copyright so that investment in content can be recouped and innovation rewarded. Without such a framework there is likely to be a significant impact on industry revenue, job creation and the ability to invest in new artists and content.



ARIA Submission re NBN Inquiry

The issue of online copyright protection is a concern shared across the content and creative industries of Australia. In this regard, ARIA, as a member of the recently formed Australian Content Industry Group (also incorporating representatives from the music publishing, interactive games, books and software industries) looks forward to supporting the Government achieving its commitment, made in the 2009 policy statement *Australia's Digital Economy: Future Directions* to, "facilitate development of an appropriate solution to the issue of unauthorised file sharing".

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely

Dan Rosen
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Recording Industry Association

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