

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Background

1.1 The Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Bill 2006 was introduced into the House of Representatives on 30 March 2006 by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, the Hon. Robert Baldwin MP.

1.2 On 22 June 2006, on the recommendation of the Senate Standing Committee for the Selection of Bills, the Senate referred the provisions of the Bill to the Economics Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 9 August 2006.

Conduct of the inquiry

1.3 The Committee advertised the inquiry nationally and posted details on its internet site.

1.4 The Committee received 7 submissions to its inquiry. These are listed at Appendix 1. The Committee also received a number of papers that were tabled during the hearing, and supplementary correspondence sent after the hearing. These documents are tabled with this report and form part of the Committee's record. IP Australia's response to questions taken on notice is included at Appendix 3.

1.5 The Committee held a public hearing at Parliament House in Canberra on Thursday, 3 August 2006. Witnesses who presented evidence at the hearing are listed in Appendix 2.

1.6 The Hansard of the Committee's hearing and copies of all submissions are tabled with this report. These documents, plus the Committee's report, are also available on the Committee's website at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/economics_ctte/intellectual_property/index.htm

1.7 The Committee thanks those who participated in this inquiry.