

David Allen

Submission:

I should state that my remarks are based on a lay person's understanding rather than a legal interpretation of the relevant proposed legislation which will come into force if Australia complies with US intellectual property and copyright provisions as required under the proposed FTA agreement.

I am visually impaired and legally blind. I have been unable to read printed books Etc. for several years.

In order to access my books I am obliged to scan them into my computer and use an optical character recognition program to convert the scanned images into text. Presently my vision is such that by using, what most would consider, very large fonts I am able to read the material on screen. As my vision continues to deteriorate I anticipate that in the not too distant future I will only be able to access this material by a screen reader program which is capable of converting text to speech.

As much work is involved in the procedure described above it is my practice to keep copies of these scanned volumes, which I own, on my computer for future reference. The material is not disseminated to others or published in any way.

It is my understanding that present "fair use" provisions embodied in Australian copyright legislation allow such copies to be made for the purposes outlined above. If I am mistaken and this is not the case then such provisions should exist.

I further understand that should the American copyright legislation be imposed on Australia then I would face severe penalties for pursuing the activities outlined above.

My life, and presumably that of several others in similar circumstance, would become unimaginably bleak.

David Allen

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