

I write to object to the provisions of the FTA that would force the ill-considered US law relating to 'intellectual property' on Australia.

I am a citizen, a voter, a small business operator (in the technology industry) and a resident of Blackburn, Victoria.

US Patent and copyright law, and the DMCA in particular, are not beneficial for Australia to emulate. (Indeed, I believe they are not beneficial for the US either)

Local industry will be adversely affected if these aspects of the FTA are endorsed, hurting employment, and reducing the ability for local businesses to compete in a global marketplace, and against the monopolistic implications of the flawed US legislation.

The US Patent Office has a well-documented history of granting trivial, nonsense, ill-founded or ill-researched patents, often ignoring relevant prior art. The cost of fighting faulty patents prevents most businesses from competing fairly with the large corporations who file the offending patents.

The anti-circumvention provisions of the DMCA prohibit fair-use and fly in the face of the long-established rationale for copyrights and patents, to the benefit of a very few large (US) corporations, and the detriment of most businesses, citizens, and trading partners such as Australia if these FTA provisions are endorsed.

I, and numerous of my friends and associates are very concerned about this. The implications for Australia are far-reaching, and this is therefore a matter over which I (and they) would change a vote over.

Regards,

Colin Lewis