



MEDIA RELEASE
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MUSIC INDUSTRY FILES UNDER 115A OF COPYRIGHT ACT

Today, ARIA members Universal Music Australia Pty Limited, Warner Music Australia Pty. Limited, Sony Music Entertainment Australia Pty Ltd and J Albert & Son Pty Ltd, together with APRA AMCOS, filed an application in the Federal Court of Australia seeking orders under section 115A of the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth) to have the offshore site KickassTorrents and related proxy sites blocked in Australia.

Section 115A is a no-fault remedy which allows copyright owners or their exclusive licensees to apply for injunctions to have carriage service providers (ISPs) put blocks in place to prevent their subscribers accessing sites which have the primary purpose of infringing or facilitating the infringement of copyright.

The Government described the sites which are the intended target of these orders as being ones which flagrantly disregard the rights of copyright owners, the “worst of the worst”. These sites do nothing but exploit the creativity of others and give nothing back to the artists, songwriters, record labels and music publishers whose music is stolen and made available on them, as they make millions of dollars from the advertising which appears on them.

These orders will also support legitimate licensed online services which offer music fans access to the music they love across a range of devices at any time and any day.

“Online infringement continues to be a major threat to the sustainability of the Australian music industry. Illegal offshore sites like Kickass Torrents show a complete disrespect for music creators and the value of music. Australian music fans already have access – for free if they choose – to the world’s repertoire of music via more than 20 legitimate licensed online music services. Blocking access to sites like Kickass Torrents is all about supporting those services and allowing the writers whose songs are available on them to be paid for their work”, Jenny Morris OAM, Chair of the APRA Board.

Dan Rosen, Chief Executive Officer of ARIA said “Last year ARIA welcomed the Federal Government’s passing of section 115A as a critical element in supporting the legitimate digital content market in Australia. ARIA and its members believe that this case will be an important step to ensure Australians are accessing their music from sites which contribute to our local industry, so that we can continue investing in talent to make the music we all love.”

For further information and media enquiries please contact Vanessa Hutley - Music Rights Australia on VHutley@musicrights.com.au

About MRA

Music Rights Australia is an organisation that protects the creative interests of artists within the Australian music community through educational initiatives, government lobbying and the protection of artists’ copyrights.

Music Rights Australia represents over 87,000 songwriters and music publishers through their association with the Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners' Society (AMCOS), and more than 125 record labels – both independent and major – through the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA).