



ABC

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Resources

ABC Ultimo Centre
700 Harris Street
Ultimo NSW 2007

GPO Box 9994
Sydney NSW 2001

Tel. +61 2 8333 1500
abc.net.au

20th May 2013

The General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

adjudication@accc.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Australasian Performing Right Association Ltd application for revocation of authorisations A91187-A91194 & A91211 and substitution of new authorisations A91367-A91375

The ABC welcomes the opportunity to comment on the above applications for re-authorisation as part of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's process of consultation with interested parties.

About the ABC

The ABC is established under the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983* and is Australia's primary public broadcaster. The Corporation's principle role as set out in its Charter is to connect with audiences through distinctive content that informs, educates and entertains. In fulfilling its Charter, the ABC delivers a wide range of services across multiple platforms.

The Corporation has now had an opportunity to review the documentation included in APRA's re-authorisation application and would like to make the following comments.

Support for APRA's reauthorisation

Whilst the commercial-in-confidence nature of APRA's licensing arrangements makes it difficult for licensees to objectively benchmark licence fees, the ABC is generally supportive of APRA's collective licensing arrangements. These arrangements facilitate access to a worldwide repertoire of musical works and provide a mechanism for the blanket licensing of the performing and communication rights for these works. Provided the objectives of transparency and efficiency are maintained, these arrangements offer a cost-effective and more streamlined alternative to dealing directly with copyright holders.

The ABC would like to acknowledge the innovative and responsive approach APRA has taken to licensing in the online environment. In contrast to other organisations in the music recording industry,

the scope of rights APRA has been in a position to offer has, for the most part, kept pace with the evolution of the ABC's various digital and online services.

Period of Authorisation

The ABC questions whether the six year period of substitution proposed by APRA is appropriate in the current rapidly converging media environment. The Corporation therefore submits that the period for the substituted authorisations should be no longer than four years.

Thank you for providing the ABC with the opportunity to comment on APRA's re-authorisations.

Yours sincerely,



Philip King
Manager, Rights Management
ABC Resources
Direct line 612 8333 3307
Direct fax 612 8333 3358
King.phil@abc.net.au