

Copyright changes to introduce much needed flexibility

Thursday 13 August 2020

For immediate release

Canberra, Australia—The Australian Libraries Copyright Committee (ALCC) welcomes proposed copyright changes [announced](#) by the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, today that will make it easier for libraries and archives to deliver services online. Closures of physical facilities and the transition to digital delivery during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have increased the complexity of providing Australians with access to content.

This morning Minister Fletcher announced updates to the education and library and archives exceptions and a limited liability scheme for use of orphan works. Also announced was a fair dealing exception for non-commercial quotation and updates to the government statutory licensing scheme.

‘With the impacts of coronavirus continuing to disrupt the activities of libraries and archives across the country we are thankful the government has signaled its intention to make the copyright system more flexible and adaptable,’ said ALCC Chairperson Margaret Allen.

‘The changes announced this morning will make it quicker and easier for libraries, archives and cultural collections to deliver services online. These are much needed changes, and it is encouraging to see them being addressed.’

The ALCC supports the inclusion of a scheme for handling orphan works made as part of the announcement this morning. Such a scheme will extend the orphan works amendments brought in with the *Copyright (Disabilities and Other Measures) Act 2017*.

‘This is an appropriate extension to the 2017 changes clarifying and streamlining the handling of orphan works by libraries, archives and other cultural institutions,’ Ms Allen said.

The ALCC thanks the government for addressing the need for more flexibility for Australia’s libraries, archives and cultural collections.

More information on today’s announcement is available on Minister Fletcher’s [website](#) and on the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications [website](#).

ENDS

Interviews and media contact

Ms Allen is available for interviews by request. All media inquiries related to this media release should be directed to:

Mr Elliott Bledsoe
Copyright Officer
Australian Libraries Copyright Committee

0405 059 367
elliott@libcopyright.org.au

Link: <https://libcopyright.org.au/access-reforms-announcement-media-release>

About the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee

The Australian Library Copyright Committee (ALCC) is the main consultative body and policy forum for the discussion of copyright issues affecting Australian libraries and archives. It is a cross-sectoral committee with members representing the following organisations:

- [Australian Library and Information Association \(ALIA\)](#)
- [National and State Libraries Australasia \(NSLA\)](#)
- [Council of Australian University Librarians \(CAUL\)](#)
- [National Library of Australia \(NLA\)](#)
- [Australian Government Libraries Information Network \(AGLIN\)](#)
- [National Archives of Australia \(NAA\)](#)
- [Australian Society of Archivists \(ASA\)](#)
- [Australian School Library Association \(ASLA\)](#)
- [NSW Public Library Association \(NSWPLA\)](#)

We offer informed contributions to domestic and international copyright law and policy discussions and organise copyright education, including training and online information resources targeted at the library and archive sectors.

The ALCC and its members support a copyright framework that appropriately protects the interests of right holders while ensuring access to important cultural, educational and historic content for the public's benefit.