

ALCC appoints Ben Rice as new Copyright Law and Policy Adviser

Thursday 17 September 2020

For immediate release

Canberra, Australia—The Management Committee of the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee (ALCC) is delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Ben Rice as its new Copyright Law and Policy Adviser, taking over from Ms Jessica Coates, who had held the role since 2015.

Mr Rice is a lawyer, admitted as a solicitor in New South Wales. Before joining the ADA Mr Rice worked on policy – including copyright – as a policy adviser with Policy Australia and Eloquium Group. He has extensive experience conducting research, providing advice, writing submissions in response to government consultations, engaging with stakeholders and monitoring developments in intellectual property, digital technologies and media law.

“Libraries and archives have always played a crucial role in Australia’s civic, cultural and social life. The outcome of current and future copyright reform will be critical to providing the certainty and flexibility our cultural collections need to continue to serve the community,” Mr Rice said.

“The copyright changes passed in 2017 were an important first step, and I am committed to advocating on behalf of libraries and archives to continue that work through the copyright access reform process and beyond”.

“Year after year, the work of the ALCC has resulted in changes to copyright law which have made access to information easier for library and archive users, while respecting the rights of creators,” ALCC Committee Member Sue McKerracher said, “Jessica Coates has done a terrific job for the sector over the last five years, with support from Elliott Bledsoe, and we’re delighted that Ben Rice comes to us with the knowledge and skills we need to maintain this momentum.”

Mr Rice commences in the role immediately. Mr Rice will also fill the role of Executive Officer of the Australian Digital Alliance (ADA), also effective immediately.

ENDS



Interviews and media contact

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

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Link: <https://libcopyright.org.au/ben-rice-appointment-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.