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Submission: Intellectual Property Arrangements: Draft Report

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Draft Report on Intellectual Property Arrangements.

As a published author I am responding to issues of copyright.

Specifically, I respond to the following finding:

DRAFT FINDING 4.2 While hard to pinpoint an optimal copyright term, a more reasonable estimate would be closer to 15 to 25 years after creation; considerably less than 70 years after death.

As stated in the draft report, copyright generally protects literary, musical, dramatic and artistic works for the duration of the creator's life plus 70 years.

While I agree that 70 years after the death of an author may be excessive, it is essential that creators retain copyright for the duration of their life. This coverage protects a creator's income, which may be meagre at best, their reputation, and their ability to innovate i.e. build on or adapt their own work.

I have written six editions of a non-fiction book (*How to write and talk to selection criteria*) spanning 22 years. It sells nationally and is described by users as 'the bible' in its field.

Copyright has protected my ability to revise, update and republish this work, thereby ensuring that I retain the reputational and financial benefits of applying my expertise.

Under the proposed arrangements, early editions of my book would have become available to others, even while later editions are being produced. This is neither 'reasonable' nor 'optimal'.

Current copyright has not prevented other authors from producing competing works. The market, i.e. users/readers, has determined which books continue to sell. It's the quality and currency of the information, not copyright, that determines this result.

I strongly recommend that copyright continue to protect literary, musical, dramatic and artistic works for the duration of the creator's life.