

To Whom It May Concern at the Productivity Commission,

In my main submission, I left you a negative response to your proposed changes to copyright and royalty laws. However, in this one, I am giving you a more positive reaction on another issue mentioned in your draft report, the issue of geo-blocking. Only last month, I subscribed to Netflix, and while I can say I am satisfied with the content our country is entitled to, I was in the middle of planning to get a VPN so I could access the more enriched libraries belonging to other countries overseas when I got the news Netflix was going to start blocking our citizens from doing just that. I am both appalled and outraged that this has happened, but the rage I felt when the news came was nothing to the furore I was incensed with when I contacted Netflix about why they were doing it.

The answer was not copyright issues, or even the fact that other Australian networks might have exclusive rights to said content. It was because “our country [Australia] has such a low population in comparison to the United States which is why you do not have the same availability that other nations do.” While that is technically true, I was nonetheless infuriated. That response was like I was being talked down to, like Australia was being talked down to by the United States itself, like the popular caste in school talking and beating down on the nerds and geeks. That is not on!

So, on the matter of geo-blocking as I would like to finally get legal access to that goldmine of entertainment that is worldwide Netflix, I am behind you all the way on removing it. Eliminate geo-blocking, now and forever.

Sincerely,

Phillip L'Estelle