Submission to the Productivity Commission’s Inquiry into Australia’s intellectual property system

The Australian Association for the Teaching of English (AATE) is the peak national professional association for English educators in Australia. The association was established and is supported by state and territory English teaching associations. Together we provide a national voice with local impact, strengthen professional connections and collaborate to influence the teaching of English in Australia.

Through its affiliated state and territory bodies AATE has almost 5,000 direct members and, via our corporate/institutional members, represents upwards of a further 12,000 English teachers and teacher educators. The association publishes a highly regarded peer reviewed professional journal *English in Australia* three times a year. AATE also publishes occasional titles that are specific to the Australian Curriculum, highlighting the latest in research and classroom practice, and has helped to produce a raft of online resources to assist teachers in teaching the Australian Curriculum: English.

AATE is committed to promoting the centrality of English within the curriculum, and enhancing English teaching and learning in Australia through leadership, advocacy for teachers, supporting teacher professional learning and standards, and disseminating publications and resources. AATE has also produced resources in partnership with bodies such as the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership, Education Services Australia, the Asia Education Foundation and Copyright Australia.

**AATE as Content Creator and Publisher**

- A significant part of AATE’s operations involves the production and publication of content through our professional journal, books and online teaching units.
- Utilising the expertise of our members, we invest a large amount of our resources into making our content available in printed and electronic format.
- AATE works closely with teachers and researchers around the country, providing them with the opportunity to disseminate their research and pedagogical practices to a wide audience both within Australia and overseas.
• In addition to publishing more experienced authors, our editors and project managers encourage contributions by less experienced writers and work with them to develop their skills and confidence. This builds the capability of the profession and provides individuals with a vehicle, through AATE, to share professional knowledge and new and innovative classroom practice.

• As a creator of resources by teachers for teachers, AATE strongly supports maintaining the current Educational Statutory Licence system which ensures remuneration for those who create high-quality and highly valued Australian educational resources.

• It is important that a value is placed on the content produced and used in an educational context and the current system does this.

• As a not for profit, non-commercial provider of educational resources with limited capacity for income generation, the system provides AATE with an important income stream which is invested back into the publication of professional works for a wide educational audience.

• Significantly, the system also allows us to continue to help develop teachers’ capability to create and publish content.

• Many of our members are also content creators in their own right and the current system provides an incentive for them to share their knowledge, research findings and expertise with their peers, which we have found to be one of the most effective ways of enhancing the professional capacity of teachers.

AATE Members as Consumers of Copyright Material

• The current Educational Statutory Licence system supports AATE’s commitment to making professional resources available to teachers, researchers and teacher educators.

• For a minimal cost and without the burden of having to worry about copyright permissions, presenters and delegates at conferences and professional learning events, and teachers in classrooms at a school and tertiary level, are able to share resources in ways that enhance professional educational practice.

• As a result Australian teachers and students have unparalleled access to high quality educational resources, and creators earn income which in turn helps to drive the creation and publication of further innovative and high quality educational content.

• AATE members find that the system maintains costs at an affordable level and it is simple to manage.

• AATE is concerned that any change to the current system may impose a cost and time burden on schools and create confusion for teachers around what resources can and cannot be shared.

• There is also a concern that there may be a disincentive for professional associations like AATE to generate content, reducing access to highly valued resources which educators in school and tertiary contexts rely upon.

AATE believes that Australia’s current statutory licence system is efficient and fair for both educators and for content creators, creating an incentive for innovation and investment. We believe it is highly effective in protecting the interests of the creators and the consumers of copyright material in the education sector.

Sincerely

Garry Collins
AATE President