

MEDIA RELEASE – COPYRIGHT AGENCY

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Copyright Agency announces appointment of new Director at Annual General Meeting

Copyright Agency Limited announced the appointment of David Barnett to its Board at yesterday's Annual General Meeting in Sydney.

Mr Barnett joins the Copyright Agency's Board as one of the directors appointed by the Australian Publishers Association (APA). Mr Barnett is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Pearson Australia and has worked in the educational publishing industry for the past 23 years. He is a member of the APA Board and currently the convenor of its Tertiary and Professional Publishers' committee.

Commenting on Mr Barnett's appointment, Copyright Agency CEO, Jim Alexander, said: 'Our Board and management look forward to working with David, knowing that we will benefit from his vast experience of educational publishing in Australia and throughout the region.'

Mr Alexander pointed to Mr Barnett's experience in educational publishing as being of enormous importance to the Copyright Agency's growing work in promoting the value of Australian content in education. 'We facilitate access to our members' creative content under the auspices of the Copyright Act's statutory licence provisions,' said Mr Alexander. 'When we review the financial impact this has had on Australia's authors, publishers and visual artists over time, it is easy to see why these payments are fundamental to the viability of a quality Australian educational publishing industry, and to the broader creation of content.'

In announcing Mr Barnett's appointment, Mr Alexander also paid tribute to outgoing Director, Martin Spears. 'Martin has been an integral part of our Board since 2003 and has made a valuable contribution to the company over those years, in particular as an active participant in our long term project for direct payments to authors and publishers. I take this opportunity to formally thank him for this contribution.'

During Copyright Agency's Annual General Meeting, the Board and Management shared a number of highlights with members, which included:

- \$121 million distributed to copyright owners during 2010-11
- A successful first year of managing the Australian Government's resale royalty scheme for visual artists, totalling \$325,000 in royalties generated as at 30 June 2011
- Licensing fees of \$123 million collected for the use of copyright material
- The highest number of new members recruited in a single year (3,896), reaching a membership milestone of 20,000
- Commercial licensing fees growth to \$16 million
- A total \$2.4 million allocated by Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund for the support of Australian cultural projects.

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**Media enquiries: Paul Murton, Corporate Communications Manager
02-9394 7612, 0406 067 182 or email pmurton@copyright.com.au.**