



MEDIA RELEASE
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MUSIC INDUSTRY SITE BLOCKING CASE ON TRACK

Today, Music Rights Australia issued a clarification about the progress of the music industry's site blocking case which targets the notorious site KickassTorrents.

Various reports released yesterday have incorrectly stated that the music industry's counsel sought to have the hearing delayed. The quote which has been widely misreported as coming from the music industry's counsel was in fact made by a counsel for Foxtel Management Pty Ltd. Foxtel Management is a respondent in the case in its capacity as an ISP.

Vanessa Hutley, General Manager of Music Rights Australia, who is overseeing the case said:

"Universal Music Australia Pty v TPG Internet Pty Limited has been set down for hearing at the earliest date which the court could give us. The Applicants did not seek to delay this case. The case is on track and we are currently finalising the Applicants' evidence in accordance with the timetable we proposed.

"Music never sought to delay this important case as we believe the expeditious grant of these orders will benefit all copyright owners and their exclusive licensees whose creative content appears on the KickassTorrents site without their permission. We look forward to the matter being heard in October."

For further information and media enquiries please contact Vanessa Hutley - Music Rights Australia on VHutley@musicrights.com.au

About MRA

Music Rights Australia is an organisation that protects the creative interests of artists within the Australian music community through educational initiatives, government lobbying and the protection of artists' copyrights.

Music Rights Australia represents over 87,000 songwriters and music publishers through their association with the Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners' Society (AMCOS), and more than 125 record labels – both independent and major – through the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA).

Background Information

This matter was listed for a directions hearing before Justice Katzmann on Wednesday 18 May. At the directions hearing, the Applicants proposed a timetable which included listing the matter for final hearing. The timetable was put in place and the matter was set down for a two day hearing on 25 and 26 October.

Universal Music Australia Pty Limited, Warner Music Australia Pty. Limited, Sony Music Entertainment Australia Pty Ltd and J Albert & Son Pty Ltd, together with APRA AMCOS, filed an application in the Federal Court of Australia seeking orders under section 115A of the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth) to have the offshore site KickassTorrents and related proxy sites blocked in Australia.

Section 115A is a no-fault remedy which allows copyright owners or their exclusive licensees to apply for injunctions to have carriage service providers (ISPs) put blocks in place to prevent their subscribers accessing sites which have the primary purpose of infringing or facilitating the infringement of copyright.

The Government described the sites which are the intended target of these orders as being ones which flagrantly disregard the rights of copyright owners, the “worst of the worst”. These sites do nothing but exploit the creativity of others and give nothing back to the artists, songwriters, record labels and music publishers whose music is stolen and made available on them, as they make millions of dollars from the advertising which appears on them.

These orders will also support legitimate licensed online services which offer music fans access to the music they love across a range of devices at any time and any day.