

Copyright Act Review Team
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

By email to: CopyrightActReview@mbie.govt.nz

5 April 2019

Dear Review Team

The Royal Society Te Apārangī believes that those of its members with interests in the review of the Copyright Act will make their views known through submissions by research organisations. Therefore the Society is not making a direct submission. We have examined the submission of Universities New Zealand, and appreciate their detailed consideration of how copyright operates in and affects institutions of higher learning and research. We would therefore commend that their submission be given careful consideration as it is likely to be broadly representative of views we would find in the wider research community.

There is one matter the Society wishes to raise which sits outside the questions asked. This is in relation to the way in which copyright interacts with indigenous knowledge, Mātauranga Māori. The way the discussion paper is written, this vitally important issue is very much tacked on at the end – it deserves higher prioritisation. The Society believes that recognition of Mātauranga should be up front in discussion papers as befitting a partnership approach with Māori, even if only to acknowledge that Mātauranga requires special and different treatment and is therefore not in scope for copyright. We commend such an up-front approach be taken in the next iteration of the development programme on copyright.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andrew Cleland FRSNZ
Chief Executive