

The Copyright Agency and Viscopy to merge

After a successful five-year ‘Services Agreement’ between rights management organisations, the Copyright Agency and Viscopy, the two organisations have agreed in principle to begin the formal arrangements to merge.

Between them, the two organisations represent some 43,000 members, ranging from visual artists and illustrators to journalists, cartoonists, surveyors, educational authors and publishers.

Viscopy Chair, Tim Denny, says, “Since operating under the Services Agreement, licensing revenue to Viscopy’s visual artist members has increased by 10%.

“The proposed merger is a very positive move which will deliver further benefits to our members and partners through reduced administration fees, more seamless operations and greater support for Australian creatives and culture. The Viscopy Board will be unanimously recommending to its members that they vote in favour of this positive step.”

Under the proposed merger Copyright Agency will create a new class of membership, ‘visual artist’, for Viscopy’s approximately 13,000 Australian and New Zealand visual arts members. Those members will be able to elect a new Visual Arts Director to the Copyright Agency Board.

The merger would take place by way of a Scheme of Arrangement which requires approval by the Supreme Court, the corporate regulator ASIC and the membership itself. If successful, Viscopy members will automatically become members of Copyright Agency.

Chair of the Copyright Agency, Kim Williams, says “The rights to fair payment for the work of visual artists and all creatives are under challenge as never before so it’s vitally important their voice is given due prominence in the copyright debate. We will ensure this, as well as delivering more revenue to Australian artists through consolidation of operations and reduced costs.”

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ABOUT COPYRIGHT AGENCY | VISCOPY

Copyright Agency | Viscopy is a not-for-profit rights management organisation that provides services to ensure artists, writers and publishers are fairly rewarded for the reproduction of their work. We provide licences for people to use creative content, and distribute those fees back to creators as royalties. We are committed to encouraging the development of lively and diverse markets for published works with our range of commercial licence solutions and through our philanthropic [Cultural Fund](#), which provides grants to Australian creators.

The logo for the Copyright Agency, featuring the word "COPYRIGHTAGENCY" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter "C" is significantly larger and contains a copyright symbol (©) inside it.