

National Cultural Policy Submission

1473477

Public

Individual

COLIN CASSIDY



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

At 9pm one evening during April 2026, the Police knocked on my door. 'We're here for a welfare check, because you reported a cyber identify & voice clone theft crime on the Federal Police website'. So after assurances I was not a 'suicide risk', they left and that was the last and only response from the AFP to an Australian Citizen having their identify stolen.

It was actually my biometric identify in the form of my voice, which was cloned (according to Swiss Forensic Voice Experts JP French and also an Emeritus Professor of Speech at London College) without consent and monetised in 6 languages by a Youtube Channel owner, in breach of copyright. I'm a voice actor and I had narrated that YouTube channel under paid contract with the owner for 7 years getting it to 600,000 subscribers, then the channel owner tried to sell it and the American Buyers felt my narrator fees were too high, thus they sought to find options to lower the cost, they suggested cloning, I refused as I did not trust them, so they (allegedly but with strong evidence from JP French Forensics) then proceeded breached the Ai terms of my contract and breached my copyright ownership (which I retained) and cloned my voice, then sold the channel for \$1M USD, which The Australian Economy never saw - I would love for the Productivity Commission to hear about this. I'm told if the Youtube Channel owner were in Australia, that my retention of copyright ownership (highly unusual in our law) would serve as the perfect precedent to raise the profile of this and enact laws and modifications to copyright law to finally address the injustices and bring Australian Creative earnings back home.

Youtube continue to operate in the Australian Jurisdiction, while they earn revenue from my voice in partnership with this Youtube Channel owner. No Australian Authority has governance over this to regulate and force take down notices and so I've had to deal directly with Youtube who have kept me in a holding pattern.

I'm an Australian creative. My identity's been stolen. Ai tech could elevate and increase my revenue and productivity, but instead, our laws have failed to protect me simultaneously failing to retain my share of the \$1M sale price of the channel which included my biometric identity, which continues to earn revenue every second of every day.

I'm calling on the government to help me and others by replicating the copyright and royalty collection and detection mechanisms used in the music industry, to set up a new body like AMCOS or APRA The Australian Voice and Vision Performers Authority (AVAVPA) to begin work with artists to use clone proof neural watermarks to identify all voices, track them by mandating all tech companies yield their resources to enact this system and finally give The Australian Economy back the revenue these Big Tech Companies are pulling out from under us. I would be happy to sit on an advisory committee.

Links to interviews below.

ABC 2025 Romy Stevens reporter ABC

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-08-15/how-artificial-intelligence-could-threaten-jobs/105642364?utm_source=abc_news_app&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_campaign=abc_news_app&utm_content=link

Newscorp article on Colin Cassidy's unauthorised voice clone case - Monday, 9 March 2026

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/online/security/one-in-three-aussie-workers-fear-ai-will-take-their-job-new-survey-reveals/news-story/a236a9c9477f92616b2dff9d4ad20cfe>

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