★ REGISTRATION OF FORMAL POLICY UPDATE ★

To: The National Cultural Policy Team (Department of the Arts)Reference: Formal Consultation Record UpdateContext: This document is submitted via the official online portal link as a critical, high-level structural update to the previous Cultural Futures Framework input, as formally arranged with the Department's secretariat team.Please ensure this document is processed under Name Withheld status on all public indexes to preserve constituent administrative privacy.

CULTURAL FUTURES FRAMEWORK (CFF) PROPOSAL

"Empowering creators, building careers, realising cultural value."

Diagnostic Layer: The Post-Artefact Economy (PAE) Model

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & CENTRAL PROPOSITION

1.1 Executive Summary

Australia's creative and knowledge industries generate billions in economic value, yet the practitioners, designers, writers, and technical creators who drive this success remain underpaid, under-supported, and structurally excluded from the wealth they generate.

The Cultural Futures Framework (CFF) is a legislative and policy proposal designed to correct this imbalance by establishing:

* Sustainable Career Pathways: Structured vocational creation, apprenticeships, and baseline workforce protections.

* Fair Remuneration & Expanded Rights: Statutory recognition of Performance Rights, Exhibition Royalties, and automated Digital & AI Contributions.

* A National Investment Institution: The Cultural and Economic Development and Research Fund (CEDRF), ensuring direct, long-term economic returns to human creators.

For too long, human creative labour has been treated as an optional, peripheral extra, despite being an economic cornerstone. The creative workforce fuels multiple high-growth industries—media, entertainment, technology, software, tourism, and education. However, the financial flow is entirely one-way: value is extracted from living practitioners, while they lack the structured economic pathways required to sustain their life's work.

1.2 The Core Problem: The Post-Artefact Economy (PAE) Model

The ongoing economic failure of current policy frameworks stems from a critical structural blind spot: the systematic conflation of living human activity with post-cultural artefacts.

To understand why current arts funding, intellectual property law, and marketplace structures fail to sustain human creators, policy must map the dividing line created by Fixation:

THE FIXATION DIVIDING LINE

1. Living Cultural Activity	**2. Post-Cultural Artefact**
* Active Human Process	* Frozen, Reproducible Object
* Composing, Coding, Writing	* Digital Files, Code-bases
* Designing, Teaching, Craft	* Textbooks, Films, Datasets
* Relational, Present-Tense	* Ownable, Countable, Taxable

* Living Cultural Activity: The active, real-time human process of practice, creation, execution, and transmission. This includes the fluid labour of coding, composing, writing, designing, teaching, and physical performing. This value exists in the present tense and is intrinsically bound to living human practitioners.

* Post-Cultural Artefacts: The static, reproducible objects, records, representations, or data sets that remain after the moment of fixation. A book is not writing—it is a post-literary artefact. A software file is not coding—it is a post-technological artefact. A digital stream is not music—it is a post-musical artefact.

1.3 The Mechanism of Structural Extraction

Modern legal regimes (such as standard copyright and patents) and market systems are highly optimized to value, trade, and protect post-cultural artefacts. because they are static, ownable, countable, and easily commercialised. Conversely, the living cultural ecology (families, peer networks, educational spaces, regional hubs, and community traditions) acts as the living soil that generates the baseline human skills and creative capacities.

Under the current Post-Artefact Economy, corporate platforms, streaming monopolies, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) aggregators step in at the moment of fixation. They ingest, package, duplicate, and monetize these dead artefacts. Wealth accumulates exponentially inside automated digital systems, while the living human activity that generated the raw data is left depleted and uncompensated.

Artefacts possess no independent value; they are an intermediate stage in a continuous cycle:

Living Human Culture ➔ Fixation (Artefact) ➔ Living Human Interpretation

An AI model, a digital file, or a text file contains zero intrinsic utility until a living human mind interacts with it, decodes it, and brings it back into active human life. The CFF does not seek to diminish the value of commercial artefacts, but to correct the structural failure of the PAE model by ensuring wealth flows backward to sustain the living human processes that give those artefacts. meaning.

SECTION 2: KEY OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Recognising Cultural Labour as Essential: Ensure living human practitioners are structurally included in economic policy, rather than left to operate on the fringes.

2. Job Creation & Vocational Security: Establish a structured, sustainable job network that treats creative and knowledge workers as integral contributors to national productivity.

3. Fair Remuneration via Expanded Rights: Expand traditional copyright systems to include distinct Performance and Execution Rights, ensuring fair compensation for active delivery.

4. Economic Value Reintegration: Redirect financial flows so that technology platforms and entities profiting from post-cultural artefacts. contribute directly to the sustainability of the human ecology.

5. Equity, Regional, and Intergenerational Inclusion: Provide clear economic pathways for regional, remote, and First Nations communities, ensuring local skills transmission remains viable outside major urban centres.

6. Workforce Protections: Ensure independent cultural and technical workers have universal access to superannuation, insurance, portable leave, and taxation incentives to promote long-term financial security.

SECTION 3: CORE COMPONENTS OF THE FRAMEWORK

3.1 The Three Pillars of Rights

To arrest the extractive drift of the Post-Artefact Economy, the rights framework must be expanded to protect both the author of the text and the living executioner of the craft:

* Copyright: Protects the original intellectual property of creators, enabling control and monetisation of fixated works.

* Performing Rights: Ensures creators receive ongoing compensation when their fixated works are publicly performed, broadcast, or duplicated.

* Performance Rights: Establishes an entirely new, independent statutory right compensating human performers and practitioners for live or recorded contributions, regardless of underlying copyright ownership. This explicitly recognises the present-tense human activity as a distinct source of value.

3.2 Flexible Apprenticeship and Job Pathways

The framework connects fluid cultural participation to viable, long-term career infrastructure:

* Paid Apprenticeships: Emerging practitioners are paired with established professionals, with wages funded directly through baseline industry levies and corporate artefact. revenue contributions.

* Public Sector Employment: Integration of cultural and creative practitioners into education, public health, community development, and public initiatives, transforming sporadic contract work into stable institutional careers.

* Workforce Protections: Universal structural alignment ensuring freelance, contract, and gig-economy workers gain access to standard workplace protections, insurance, and retirement security.

3.3 The Cultural and Economic Development and Research Fund (CEDRF)

The centerpiece of the CFF is an independent investment and funding institution, modeled on successful sovereign wealth structures like the Future Fund and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. Rather than functioning as a discretionary, short-term grants body, the CEDRF serves as a permanent macroeconomic financial engine to sustain the human workforce.

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===================================================================
            THE CEDRF VALUE REINTEGRATION LOOP
===================================================================
Post-Cultural Artefact  ➔ ➔  Captures Levy  ➔ ➔   CEDRF National Body
(Platforms / AI Systems)                          (Independent Fund)
         ▲                                                   |
         |                                                   ▼
         |────────────── Returns Revenue ──────────────────|
                      Living Human Activity
                   (Pathways & Apprenticeships)
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Sustainable Funding Streams:

* Digital and AI Platform Levies: Large digital corporations, streaming monopolies, and generative AI systems that derive automated revenue from

harvesting post-cultural artefacts. must contribute a structured percentage of earnings into the Fund.

* Venue and Exhibition Contributions: Commercial and public entities relying on live human practice to drive consumer engagement will contribute to standardized floor wages for cultural labour.

* Restructured Public Investment: Reconfiguring existing arts and innovation grants away from temporary, project-by-project funding and toward permanent career pathways and intergenerational skills preservation.

SECTION 4: WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPLICATION & CONCLUSION

4.1 Cross-Industry Adaptability

The CFF applies universally across all creative, technical, and knowledge-based disciplines:

* Performers and Musicians: Expanding protections to include structural performance rights for all studio and stage contributors.

* Visual Artists and Designers: Strengthening copyright protections, technical resale royalties, and commercial exhibition levies.

* Writers, Coders, and Digital Creators: Ensuring fair remuneration for automated publishing, database scraping, digital distribution, and software exploitation.

- Regional and Remote Ecologies: Adapting funding delivery so that practitioners in rural and First Nations communities can access secure wages and apprenticeship models that align with local place-based knowledge and traditions.

4.2 Conclusion

The modern knowledge economy thrives on intellectual property and cultural capital, yet the human practitioners who generate this value remain structurally excluded from the financial systems they sustain.

The Cultural Futures Framework offers a policy-ready blueprint to transition our economy away from the passive extraction of post-cultural artefacts. and toward the active cultivation of human capability. The challenge ahead is not simply recognizing cultural value, but structurally realizing it—ensuring that those who build our national identity can participate fully in the economic future they create.

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