



Australian Government

IP Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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Protecting Australia's National Icons

Following consideration of a report by the Advisory Council on Intellectual Property (ACIP), the Australian government has decided not to introduce a formal system of identifying and protecting the use of Australia's national icons.

Federal Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources Ian Macfarlane today released the ACIP report which is titled *The Protection of National Icons*.

The report was a response to approaches made by organisations and individuals asking for special trade mark protection for symbols and identifiers which they believe to be 'national icons'.

The Australian Government considers that the existing legislative framework provides a sufficient range of measures to protect national icons from inappropriate use.

Mr Macfarlane said the current system strikes an appropriate balance between the interests of the public and those who own rights in names or expressions.

The Government also considers that the cost of having any form of additional special system for protecting icons would lead to confusion and outweigh any benefits.

Mr Macfarlane thanked ACIP for their work on the report, particularly as the issues are very complex with no clear cut answers.

A copy of the report is available at www.acip.gov.au.

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