



April 20, 2023

To Paul Thompson – Chief Executive and Editor-in-Chief  
Radio New Zealand

Joe Fowler – Ministry of Arts, Culture and Heritage

Kia ora Mr Thompson,

Copyright Licensing NZ (CLNZ), The Publishers Association Te Rau o Tākupu (PANZ) and The New Zealand Society of Authors Te Puni Kaituhi o Aotearoa (NZSA) would like to congratulate Radio New Zealand (RNZ) on its funding boost of \$25.7 million.

Following on from our engagement last year, we are keen to continue our discussions about ensuring adequate compensation for writers and publishers when work is adapted for broadcast and made available on the RNZ platform. We would also like to discuss the opportunities that the recent funding boost received by RNZ may create to adapt new NZ stories for broadcast.

We are concerned that a lack of broadcast support to commission NZ writing (zero budget) is mirrored in the sales figures of NZ fiction. In contrast, statistics from Australia show their media quota of 55% between 9am and midnight for local content enhances and promotes Australian stories to the extent that 45% of all retail fiction sales are Australian-authored books. In NZ 6% of all retail fiction sales are NZ-authored books, which highlights the flow-on effect from the lack of media support for local work. There is pedagogical research that proves the link between local content and increased literacy rates. This coupled with the wellbeing and cultural identity benefits that NZ stories offer, government agencies should be championing READ LOCAL.

RNZ has obligations under the Radio New Zealand charter, Section 5:

- *(e) stimulate, support, and reflect the diversity of cultural expression, including drama, comedy, literature, and the performing arts:*
- *(f) stimulate, support, and reflect a wide range of music, including New Zealand composition and performance:*
- *(g) reflect New Zealand's cultural identity, including Māori language and culture:*

We hope that your new funding will enable the organisation to deliver on these obligations and we would be delighted to discuss how we can support you to deliver on this.

As mentioned earlier, we are very keen to meet with you to discuss this further and identify ways to ensure NZ writers and publishers are fairly paid for their work.

Ngā mihi nui,



Dr Vanda Symon, President, NZSA. Graeme Cosslett, President, PANZ. Pat Walsh, Chair, CLNZ