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## **POLICE BUST 2 MOVIE PIRACY LABS**

### **Net 41 DVD burners capable of producing 1 million illegal discs**

Sydney: On 4 September, Green Valley Police, supported by investigators from the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (AFACT), served warrants on residential premises in Mount Pritchard and Cabramatta, shutting down two illegal movie piracy labs operating 41 DVD burners capable of producing over one million illegal discs a year.

Police first searched a Mount Pritchard residence, discovering 11 DVD burners, and more than 1,500 pirated DVD movies, including illegal copies of “*UP*” which was released in Australian cinemas on 3 September and is yet to be released legitimately on DVD.

Police subsequently served a second warrant on a residence only minutes away in John Street in Cabramatta, seizing 30 DVD burners and more than 5,000 pirated DVD movies including copies of “*District 9*” and “*G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra*”, which are currently screening in cinemas across the country.

The combined haul from the two residential premises amounted to over 6,500 pirated DVD movies and 41 DVD burners which had the capability of producing over one million illegal discs a year worth a street value of over five million dollars.

A 45-year-old man is assisting Police with their ongoing enquiries into the two illegal piracy operations, and is expected to face multiple copyright and trademark charges.

Commenting on the conclusion of the day’s Police operation, Neil Gane, Executive Director AFACT, said, “Thanks to excellent work by officers from the Green Valley local area command, these illegal piracy operations have been effectively shut down, cutting off the supply of illegal discs to movie pirates operating at weekend markets, and helping to protect jobs and honest, hard-working local businesses.”

Penalties for copyright crimes are up to \$60,500 and/or 5 years jail per offence.

### **About AFACT**

AFACT works closely with industry, government, police and educational institutions to address copyright theft and protect the interests of the film and television industry as well as the interests of Australian movie fans.

Australia's copyright industries are the 3rd largest contributors as a percentage of GDP in the world, second only to the US and UK.

In 2006/07 they contributed 10.3% GDP to Australia's economy [up 66% since 1996], represented 8% of our employment and generated 4.1% of total exports.

The film and TV industry in Australia alone contributed \$4.4 billion to GDP and supports 50,000 jobs, including small businesses under threat from copyright theft, and independent cinemas, video rental stores and film and television producers across the country.

In 2007, the film and TV sector contributed an estimated \$1.8 billion in tax to the Australian Government.

In 2008, state and federal police conducted 51 raids involving movie piracy and seized 544,697 pirated DVDs. They also seized 488 burners capable of producing 12 million pirated DVDs a year with a potential street value of over \$61million.

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