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**780,000 ILLEGAL DVDS DESTROYED**  
***NSW Government, Police and the film and television industry unite  
to stop movie piracy***

Sydney: On 24 November, the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (AFACT) hosted an event to destroy over three quarters of a million pirated DVD movies, the result of NSW Police, Victoria Police and Federal Police operations to counter movie piracy.

Speaking at the event, NSW Police Minister Michael Daley said: "During film piracy enforcement, Police have uncovered links between film piracy and a range of other serious criminal activity including drugs, weapons, fraud and the supply of child pornography.

"That's why today's destruction of 780,000 pirated DVDs marks a cornerstone in the important work conducted by the NSW Police force to combat these crimes.

"This sends a message to would-be movie pirates that these criminal rackets will be shut down and copyright laws diligently upheld."

Also attending the destruction ceremony were local DVD store owners and Australian actors Susie Porter ("East West 101", "The Jesters") and Roy Billing, best known for his role as Aussie Bob Trimbole in "Underbelly" who said: "These criminals are taking away our livelihood...so to see them destroyed is a source of great glee."

AFACT's Executive Director Neil Gane said the proliferation of thousands of pirated movie DVDs in our communities is often the result of criminals downloading illegal movies from the internet and then burning them onto DVDs: "The problem is a serious one, and I'd like to acknowledge the excellent work of the NSW Police Force in closing down many of these movie piracy rackets," he said.

Joining AFACT at the event was Crime Stoppers CEO Peter Price who said that Crime Stoppers had received a number of calls that had lead to arrest and successful prosecution in numerous cases involving movie piracy. "Information like this from the community is essential in combating crime and making our community not only safer, but also protecting it from the negative economic impact," Mr Price said.

Penalties for copyright crimes under the Commonwealth Copyright Act are a maximum of \$60,500 and/or 5 years jail per offence.

Members of the community can provide information on movie piracy to Crime

Stoppers by calling 1800 333 000.

## **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 movie and TV piracy, 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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