

Submission to the Productivity Commission's inquiry into AI and Data

About me

I am Jet Akkermans-Pearce, a film student studying at SAE Institute and living in South Australia. I chose this path because, like many artists before me, and sure to come after, I have stories, Australian stories, I want to share with the world, but this proposed policy puts all of that at risk. The prospect of work past, present and future being sold to AI companies without even a proper form of compensation risks the total collapse of our creative industries, and our culture.

I am concerned about AI because

Australian stories are vital to our culture, and create connections across our diverse community. The AI industry threatens to exploit and drain our vibrant creative sector that's only now making a comeback after COVID-19.

AI companies are some of the biggest in the world, and they expect to profit off of distilling decades of Australian work into their models. Not to mention the environmental impacts of generative AI that could indirectly lead to worse droughts, bushfires, floods and so on. Wholesale handing Australia's creative history is equivocally Un-Australian.

AI companies are taking over everything, attempting to create a monopoly of 'creativity and culture'. This has been an issue in social media spaces, with models training themselves off people's work without their consent for the past year or so. We cannot allow this to unfairly affect professional industries as well. We need to give communities the opportunity to experiment with creativity rather than replace it with AI generated content.

It is hard enough to make ends meet as a creative, things are getting better, but this will send the entire creative industry potentially decades back. We cannot allow what little income creatives earn to be siphoned-off by the billionaire owners of the largest companies in the world.

Rather than a data-mining exemption for AI

AI companies should be required to gain consent from, and pay royalties to, the creators of any work that they want to use to train their models.

AI companies should be required to publish, or otherwise publicly represent what content they have ingested into their systems in an easily accessible way, so that we can audit and confirm that our work is not unfairly included.

AI companies must remove any existing content for which they do not have a licence from their models, or give the proper credit/royalties to creators of said content.

AI companies, and people publishing AI-generated content, should be required to clearly label what is AI-generated content, so that it cannot be maliciously advertised as a human work, and to prevent confusion.

The productivity commission must recognise that it is human creators, past present and upcoming, who create productivity, art, and content in all its forms, not AI systems that plagiarise it, and regurgitate it.

Signoff

Thank you for reading my concerns. I hope that we can have some AI regulation that protects Australian creative workers, hobbyists, and even students like me from AI companies.