

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**5 March 2010**

## **CD pirate fined thousands for Serbian discs**

WAGGA WAGGA – A man was fined \$12,000 for infringing the copyright of Serbian composers in the Wagga Local Court yesterday. Sasha DIMITITIJEVIC (36) was found guilty of six counts of manufacturing pirate music with an intention to sell for profit and six counts of possession of pirate music.

The Serbian-born man was stopped by Wagga highway patrol officers in January 2009 for doing 139 kilometres per hour in a 110 kilometre zone on the Hume Highway. New South Wales Police officers noticed large volumes of burnt CDs and DVDs in his car and arrested DIMITITIJEVIC on suspicion of copyright infringement.

In an interview with police, DIMITITIJEVIC admitted that he had sourced the music from his parents in Serbia and via illegal internet downloads. He also conceded that he had not paid any royalties to the creators of the music.

DIMITITIJEVIC pleaded not guilty to the charges and argued in Court that the Serbian composers were not covered by Australian copyright laws. However, evidence put on by Music Industry Piracy Investigations (**MIPI**), the anti-piracy organisation for the Australian music industry, clearly showed that copyright existed in the Serbian music and that DIMITITIJEVIC had blatantly infringed that copyright.

In handing down the \$12,000 fine, Wagga magistrate Geoff Hiatt reinforced the need for the penalty to send a message of general deterrence to the community so as to encourage them to respect the rights of songwriters and other copyright owners.

Sabiene Heindl, General Manager of MIPI, welcomed the decision saying: "Copyright protects the legitimate rights of creators to be rewarded for their hard work in creating music. It does not matter if that music is created in Australia or Serbia, people need to understand that pirating music is illegal regardless of its origin. We congratulate the New South Wales Police on their pro-active attitude towards detecting and prosecuting music piracy."

Criminal penalties for copyright infringement are up to \$60,500 and five years imprisonment per offence for individuals, and up to \$302,500 for corporations.

Members of the public can help police identify and shut down music piracy operations by reporting piracy at [www.mipi.com.au](http://www.mipi.com.au). Consumer guides to help members of the public identify whether or not music CDs or DVD are pirated are available to view and download from [www.mipi.com.au](http://www.mipi.com.au).

### **Media inquiries and interviews with Sabiene Heindl, General Manager, MIPI contact:**

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#### **About MIPI**

Music Industry Piracy Investigations Pty Ltd ([www.mipi.com.au](http://www.mipi.com.au)) is the anti-piracy organisation for the Australian music industry. MIPI represents close to 125 music labels through their association, ARIA and over 2,000 music publishers and songwriters through their association, AMCOS.



MIPI operates a toll-free piracy hotline on **1800 06 16 16** and a report piracy form that can be accessed at <http://www.mipi.com.au/Report-Piracy.html>.

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