

MEDIA RELEASE

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**RAID OF PIRATE COUNTRY MUSIC SELLER AFTER
MARKET OPERATOR REFUSES TO CO-OPERATE**

Earlier today the New South Wales Police, together with Music Industry Piracy Investigations (**MIPI**) raided the home of an illegal trader of country music in Kelso near Bathurst, seizing in excess of 2,000 pirated CDs, extensive CD burning equipment, a computer and printing equipment.

The male trader was allegedly selling burnt country music CDs to unsuspecting market goers at the Bathurst and Orange markets. MIPI immediately took steps to contact the operator of the Bathurst Markets following complaints received from the general public. The market operator refused to take any active steps to assist to identify or stop the pirate trader selling at the markets.

After investigation and surveillance, MIPI operatives traced the pirate trader to an address at Kelso near Bathurst. The matter was referred to the Chifley Target Action Group of the NSW Police who acted promptly to apply and execute the search warrant today. The seized CDs included music by Slim Dusty, Lee Kernaghan, Faith Hill, Adam Brand, Randy Travis and Shannon Noll.

Sabiene Heindl, General Manager of MIPI said "Market operators need to take responsibility for the sale of pirate music at their markets, particularly in circumstances such as this where it has been brought to their immediate attention. It's not okay to turn a blind eye to illegal conduct that denies artists and songwriters the income they deserve and allows pirates to profit from other people's hard work."

Cheryl Hayes, General Manager of the Country Music Association of Australia, has congratulated the combined efforts of MIPI and the NSW Police in uncovering this matter and acting so swiftly to shut down the piracy of Australian country music. She said "At the end of the day, illegal copying of music is pure theft and this illegal activity robs country music artists and the music industry of well deserved earnings".

MIPI encourages consumers who believe they may have purchased pirate music from markets or other locations to come forward. MIPI's toll-free hotline for reporting music piracy is 1800 06 16 16. Information can also be provided through MIPI's website at www.mipi.com.au.

Penalties for copyright infringement are up to \$60,500 and 5 years imprisonment per offence. The criminal case against the pirate trader is expected to be heard in Court over the next couple of months.

Interviews:

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About MIPI

Music Industry Piracy Investigations Pty Ltd (www.mipi.com.au) is the anti-piracy organisation for the Australian music industry. MIPI members include large and small music labels through their association ARIA and singers and songwriters through their association APRA | AMCOS.