**Resolution passed by the MEAA National Media Section committee meeting**

**Monday, July 10 2017**

This meeting of MEAA's National Media Section

*Notes:*

1. That the Walkley advisory board is an independent body overseen by its chair and the CEO of the Walkley Foundation.

2. That advisory board has recently changed categories for the Walkley awards in order to achieve what it believes is a better reflection of the current media industry.

3. Part of that change includes the removal of the Walkley award for international reporting.

4. There has been significant response in the industry - including from very many MEAA members - calling on the Walkley advisory board to reverse this decision.

5. We note that many of our members take significant personal risk in reporting from overseas.

*Resolves:*

NMS is very reluctant to comment on the independent oversight of the Walkley awards. Its independence is critical to its role as the pre-eminent national awards for journalism.

Nonetheless, given the weight of concern among MEAA members, we call on the Walkley advisory board to reconsider its decision to drop the category for international reporting.

To this end we respectfully ask the Walkley CEO Jacqui Park to convene in-person consultation meetings with interested parties as to best find a way forward to resolve this situation to everybody's mutual satisfaction.