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## **BACK-OF-VAN MOVIE THIEF ARRESTED BY POLICE**

### ***Current release movies including copies of Thor and Rio seized during operation***

Sydney: Tweed Heads police detectives raided a residence in Tweed Heads today, arresting one man and seizing over 1,000 illegal movie DVDs, DVD manufacturing equipment and eight A4 folders comprising more than 500 illegal master movie titles.

The raid followed an enquiry by investigators from the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (AFACT) into a man suspected of selling illegal DVD copies of newly-released movies from his vehicle in an area stretching between the mid-North NSW coast and Southern parts of Queensland.

Movie titles seized in the Police operation included illegal copies of *Thor*, *Fast & Furious 5* and *Rio*, which are all currently screening in cinemas across Australia and are not yet available legitimately on DVD.

Commenting on the Police operation, the owner of a video store in Narang who did not want to be named, said, "No-one should have to try and run a small business in competition with criminals. While we provide good quality service to our community, create full-time and part-time jobs and pay taxes to government – movie thieves profit from the hard work of others and give nothing back to our community."

Neil Gane, Executive Director of AFACT said, "Today's operation by NSW Police is highly commendable. Local family-run businesses are under constant threat from people intent on profiting from movie theft. Only last week, a Blockbuster movie rental store in Keilor East in Victoria had to close its doors after twenty-eight years in business because the owner said he could not compete with rampant movie theft. Movie theft is not a victimless crime."

A man was arrested and charged on offences relating to the Copyright Act.

Members of the community can provide information on movie piracy to Crime Stoppers by calling 1800 333 000 or AFACT by calling 1800 251 996.

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

### **About AFACT**

AFACT works closely with industry, government and enforcement agencies to address copyright theft and protect the interests of the film and television community as well as the interests of Australian movie fans.

In February 2011, IPSOS and Oxford Economics released a study on behalf of AFACT entitled "Economic Consequences of Movie Piracy in Australia". The key findings, outlined below, indicated the scale of harm caused by movie piracy to the Australian economy in the 12 months up to July 2010.

- \$1.37 billion in revenue was lost across the entire Australian economy.
- 6,100 jobs were forgone across the entire economy.
- Tax losses to movie piracy amounted to \$193 million.
- Direct consumer spending losses to the movie industry, ie. cinema owners, local distributors, producers and retailers amounted to \$575 million.

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