

Dear Mr. Woods and Ms. Sylvan,

As an Australian writer, just starting to build a career and looking for my first book deal, I am extremely concerned that copyright restrictions on the parallel importation of books could be relaxed or dropped.

I have done extensive reading around this topic and I believe I have seen all the arguments. Frankly, the people proposing this measure do not seem to understand the marketplace and how it operates, and they certainly seem to have no regard whatsoever for people trying to build a strong Australian publishing industry.

Australia is undergoing a tremendous burst of growth and development in the literary arts. It has a strong publishing sector, and all that goes with that - the nurturing of Australian writers, our literary culture, the small presses, the specialist booksellers, the diversity of voices - will be put at risk by this measure.

Of course one or two major booksellers and their owners might do well out of selling cheap imports, dumped here by foreign publishers, but it is hard to see how that is in the best interests of the rest of us.

Regards,

Graham Storrs.

18 December 2008