

Parallel Importation of Books Study  
Productivity Commission  
GOP Box 1428  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

My name is Deborah Abela and I am an Australian author.

I strongly object to the parallel importation of books.

I support the maintenance of the current legislation which supports territorial copyright and restricts the parallel importation of books.

Below are reasons why I believe an open market or parallel importation will damage the Australian publishing industry and therefore, Australian literary culture.

- books could be brought into Australia from any other market as soon as they are available, no matter what timing is planned for Australian publication.
- This means it may be better for Australian authors to be published with an international publisher and not an Australian publisher or that Australian authors risk having overseas copies dumped in their home market, which means they will not receive local royalty payments for those sales.
- It is vital to Australian culture that books by Australian authors are published by Australian publishing houses. We need to encourage a strong local literary tradition and foster a firm relationship between Australian authors and their Australian publishers. It is a big investment for Australian publishers to take on new authors. Australian publishers may reduce their investment in Australian authors as they have no

exclusivity for their works in their territory and thus the investment they make in that author simple will not add up.

- I believe parallel import will risk publishers reducing their investment in Australian publishing. This will mean fewer Australian stories will be published and sold. When I was a child, I read mostly overseas stories and very few about my own backyard and cultural experience. Whereas now, Australia is in the very rich position of 60% of all books sold in Australia being of Australian origin. I believe parallel import will severely cut that back and trash years worth of hard work in getting to that position.
- Often it takes several books to create a successful author and if there is less incentive for a publisher to go the distance due to no rights exclusivity, the author may not realise their potential success, Australia will see fewer local works published and we all witness the decline of the local publishing industry and a decline in the cultural literary richness we have witnessed in the past few decades.
- It is already very difficult in Australia to become a published author and then to earn enough money to live and sustain that career. Parallel importation of books will only make that career path harder for Australians to realise and much harder for published authors to make a living and thereby continue writing Australian stories for Australian audiences.

For the above reasons, and alongside the UK and USA, I believe parallel importation of books is not in Australia's cultural interests and will severely damage the prospects of local authors, printers, independent booksellers, educators and printing industry employees and the local publishing industry.

Kind Regards,

Deborah Abela

Children's Author