

Dear Commissioners,

I wish to add my vote to those of book creators who are alarmed at the suggestion that current restrictions should be lifted and parallel importation of books be allowed. This has the potential to severely affect the publishing industry in Australia and ruin the livelihood of authors and illustrators.

Currently Australian laws guarantee that books must be published by the local publisher and copyright holder in Australia within 30 days of their overseas release. If that protection is removed, it opens the floodgates to overseas versions of Australian books, swamping a local industry that is already struggling with low profit margins and worsening economic conditions.

If current copyright protections are removed following the review by Australia's Productivity Commission, overseas versions of popular Australian books may be the only version we are able to purchase here.

It's important to us as a nation that we keep reading, seeing and hearing our own stories. Children need to grow up with access to Australian stories — stories that speak of places they know, in a language they know, and that validate the world they live in.

Yours sincerely,

Edel Wignell (writer)