

Dear Sir/Madam,

re: Parallel Imports

I am as yet an unpublished Australian Writer who looks upon the PI “considerations” with horror.

It is tough enough for an unpublished writer to get access to publishers here in Australia without you (our government that should have our cultural & economic wellbeing at heart), making things even harder.

I believe that if you let this proposal go through it's much the same as sabotaging the industry as a whole. A publisher who is in effect just a distribution arm is pretty much impotent, yes?

I do not have sales figures or bestselling titles to include that show that my point of view should be considered because I am a writer that “matters”, but I have ambition and inspiration and desire.

Now, as an independent committee reporting to my elected representatives, you can hamstring me all for the sake of making nice with the big boys but when I am an international best-selling author I won't be talking in glowing terms of how my government does its best to support and foster an encouraging atmosphere of creativity and artistic integrity.

I don't want to drop the “u” from my words or change words so that Americans find them easier to understand. Hell, they're a bright people, and if we can learn to read, assimilate and enjoy “their” books, I'm sure they can do the same for us.

You have received many letters from well known Australian authors who cite examples of how they have compromised their writing and their art all for the sake of internationalism, at least they gain something. With this proposition you injure us without a second thought. Yes, books may be cheaper but seriously, will any new readers suddenly start reading just because a book costs a few dollars less than it did last month?

We who write generally read – a lot. I doubt that I, as the public you seek to benefit from these actions would appreciate you hurting me in the same breath.

I will continue to read the same amount as a reader, and as a writer you may be encouraging me to investigate overseas markets to the detriment of local ones; where the artists in the community are not undermined. And believe me you'd rather i was paying you taxes in 5 years time then the UK or Ireland.

As an author yet to make an international impression I ask you not to do this. As a reader who buys tens of books a year I say, “thanks, but it's not necessary. I can only read so many books a year and I'd rather not hurt those who inspire me.”

Sincerely,
Lita Kalimeris