

19th January 2009

Parallel Importation of Books
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 3601

RE: Reform of Parallel Imports of Books

I am writing to voice my concern over the reform from the point of view of a new author with minimal publications but a mass of ideas. My work tends to have Australian facets interwoven through the story, ranging from colloquial speech, Aussie locations or local social references. In my limited experience so far these are the first things to go when I try to sell a short story overseas.

I would like to publish novels, and more importantly I would like to publish novels with Australian themes and Australian spelling. If the proposed reform goes ahead I believe neither of these things would be possible, if I manage to get published at all! The small press will be the first group to suffer with the new reform and these publishers are the ones who offer the best opportunity to new novelists.

The decline of the small press will, I believe, force new Australian authors to look overseas for publication, meaning radical changes to our work, not to mention a flood of remaindered stock onto the local market if we don't 'hit it big' overseas. This local market would traditionally be the one place where we would have an advantage over our US and UK competition, but this advantage would be lost to us if it is remaindered overseas stock that is being sold.

For the sake of saving a few dollars from each book sold, the cost is too high to the Australian reading and writing community. This reform poses too high a risk for the future of Australian fiction, a future I would like to be a part of. Please keep all of this in mind when considering the reform and simply say no.

Thank you,

Natalie J E Potts