

I am a small-time Australian author who has produced seven commercial publications since 1989.

My first book was with a major publisher (Harper Collins) to whom I gave world rights.

Once an author is established, however, one of the few strong bargaining points an individual has is over territorial rights and these can, on occasion, become quite lucrative.

They also have the added effect of encouraging (though not ensuring) local printing of books.

I cannot see how the proposed parallel importation of books will advantage either individual Australian authors, local publishers or the Australian printing industry.

The proposal seems to be aiming for some kind of illusory ideological level playing field on which small time Australian authors, publishers, agents and printers would be unable to compete effectively.

The current system seems to function adequately so why change it?

Dr Joseph Davis