

Typed copy of
Handwritten letter

Parallel Importation of Books
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601

16 January 2009

Dear Commissioners

Please do not remainder Australian books and our literary culture.

A Merino sheep is a merino sheep whether it grazes in Argentina or Australia but an Argentinean book is not an Australian book.

Our culture can't be treated like wool, wheat, oranges and bionic ears.

Only an Australian can speak about his or her culture from the inside. Small countries can't compete on a book vs book scale on the international stage.

We need to provide support for our films, books and drama rather than debate them on the international stage in pursuit of an economic theory whose efficacy, in the light of the meltdown, is yet to be proven.

Writers caution the government not to abolish territorial copyright because of the negative impact it has on our intellectual property rights.

It is fashionable to talk of books and films as products but mature countries do not trade away the distinction of their culture.

We ask you, the guardians of our culture, to respect the distinct and important contribution our culture has made to world ideas.

Sincerely

(signed)
Bruce Pascoe