

20 January 2009

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

Dear Commissioners,

I wish to voice my disapproval at the proposed lifting of the restriction on the parallel importation of books.

I agree with the many other articulate writers and industry groups, including the ASA, in objecting to this proposal with three brief points.

Australia has a distinctive cultural heritage. Australian stories must be told but who will tell them in the future? There is grave danger that our unique Australian writing culture will become extinct if these changes proceed. They may become cheaper but who wants to buy overseas versions of Australian books? A cheaper-priced book from overseas is not going to satisfy readers.

From an economic point of view, the livelihoods of writers and publishers will be at risk as the change will undoubtedly erode both incomes and opportunities. There needs to be a continued incentive for Australian publishers to establish a local market for Australian authors.

Finally, I fear the chances of aspiring authors such as myself getting published in the future will be greatly diminished with the change to these laws.

This issue bites at the very core of our culture and ongoing opportunity for creativity. We need to protect our local industry and creators and say "NO" to the removal of restrictions.

Thank you for the opportunity to put my view.

Yours sincerely,

John Tyrrell
(Writer)