

## Re Parallel Importation of books

As an Australian author and illustrator of 54 books published primarily by Australian publishers I am horrified by the threat of removal of the 30-day rule. The 30-day rule has allowed our Australian book industry to flourish. Because of this healthy industry, many wonderful works have reached Australian readers which might not otherwise have been published. The truth is that many books published by Australian publishers – and welcomed and embraced by the Australian market – are not suitable for the global environment. Many of my own works, for example, have specifically focussed on Australian history. It is my understanding that removing the 30-day rule could have a detrimental impact on the viability of much Australian publishing. It would be an absolute tragedy if we lost the great strength and diversity of Australian publishing houses. If all Australian authors were forced into a position of attempting to have their works accepted and published by overseas publishers because the range and investment strength of Australian publishers were reduced, the sad truth is that many valuable contributions to Australian literature and knowledge would never see the light.

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20 January 2009