

January 20<sup>th</sup> 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I am an internationally published author who writes about contemporary Australia. My last book, *The Tall Man: Death and Life on Palm Island*, is a non-fiction account of the death in custody of an Aboriginal man called Cameron Doomadgee in a North Queensland jailhouse.

I believe certain stories tell us who we are as a people and speak to the psychology of our country. I also believe it is imperative that Australian writers are able to tackle these stories so we have a more nuanced, sophisticated sense of our history and culture. (Certainly in the United States—from where I happen to be writing this submission—high end non-fiction is a boom industry that makes for a culture more *literate* in American history and contemporary life.)

Without the financial and practical support of my Australian publisher I would not have been able to dedicate two years of full time work to researching and writing this story of early twenty-first century Australia. And, with parallel importation, there is simply no way my publisher would have the commercial incentive to support a book of this nature. I am fortunate to be published overseas but the reality is that the main market for this book is Australia and it is gruesome to imagine Australian readers studying a book on this topic replete with American spellings and basic explanatory notes about Australian geography and culture. The effect of dismantling territorial copyright protection will be to diminish Australian cultural production and to have what remains bounced back to us through an American or British filter. I urge you not to let this happen.

Sincerely,

Chloe Hooper