

SUBMISSION TO THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION RE COPYRIGHT AND PARALLEL IMPORTATION OF BOOKS

Di Morrissey. Australian Author.

It is with alarm that I must also add my name to the list of colleagues who are objecting to implementation of parallel importation of books.

I do not believe all factors pertaining to this move and their unintended disastrous consequences have been adequately studied by the Commission. There is no assurance that books WILL become cheaper for Australian consumers, while the move could seriously damage Australian publishing, booksellers and authors.

We are all aware of the importance of our culture, the need to tell and claim OUR stories for Australian readers. I have become a successful author in Australia primarily because my books are about Australian culture, places and people. Along with my Australian publisher, James Fraser of Pan Macmillan, Australia, we have worked hard to establish a readership for inherent Australian books and subject matter. The investment, the creativity, marketing and support from Pan Macmillan to build me as a successful Australian author and produce high quality books for the Australian reading public has been exemplary. If there is parallel importing of books, it may well be that Australian stories cannot be promoted in the same way that they are now.

May I suggest if the government wants to provide cheaper books to the Australian public, they then simply remove the GST on books.

I hope, in its wisdom and integrity, the Commission will acknowledge a re-assessment of an ill conceived plan and re-think it's proposal.

Di Morrissey. Jan 2009.

Author of -

Heart of the Dreaming 1991

The Last Rose of Summer 1992

Follow The Morning Star 1993

The Last Mile Home 1994

Tears of the Moon 1995

When The Singing Stops 1996

The Songmaster 1997

Scatter The Stars 1998

Blaze 1999

The Bay 2000

Kimberley Sun 2001

Buster and the Queen Bee 2001

Barra Creek 2002

The Reef 2003

The Valley 2005

Monsoon 2007

The Islands 2008