

To: Productivity commission

Please find Submission Cover Sheet Attached:

I can only write here, what is in my heart. Like many Australian authors and illustrators, designers and publishers I am part of the Australian children's book industry and I would like to say that for me, Australian children's books are a passion, not just a job or something we earn our living, or part-living, from.

At a time where globally and Australia-wide there are many who have either lost their jobs or continue to put up with a job, or boss, or pay packet, that is less than perfect, we, the creators of books for Australian children work with a passion, an inner drive to achieve perfect books for Australian children.

Getting anything published is not an easy task. I consider myself one of the lucky ones, but there are many, many more wonderful creators out there who are waiting in line, a line which will be broken and obliterated if Parallel Importation Restrictions are lifted and authors are stripped of Australian territorial copyright on their books 12 months after publication.

Apart from being an author of both children's books and adult poetry and articles, I am also the Assistant Regional Adviser for Victoria of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, a world-wide organisation based in America. While there are many wonderful books produced from other countries in the world, and our children need to see these books, it is absolutely vital that Australian children are given the opportunity to read and respond to books about their own country, their culture and their lives. My latest children's picture book, *The Dog on the Tuckerbox*, was written about that beloved Australian icon, where for generations, families have pulled up at a roadside spot, 5 miles from Gundagai to share a few moments with a statue, a legend, part of our culture. Can I ask if you believe this is a book which should be allowed to be reproduced overseas? In August last year I launched this book at the Gundagai library. I live in Melbourne so the launch for me was without my friends, family and colleagues about me. At one point, in the middle of my speech, I looked about my audience, the children and residents of Gundagai and knew without any doubt in the world that this was the place to launch such a book, lovingly written, illustrated and produced by an Australian author, illustrator and independent Australian publisher Black Dog Books. This book has just been named a Notable book in two categories of the Children's Book Council of Australia, Book of the Year Awards.

The Australian Book industry and everyone involved needs to be protected otherwise, long term, it is our children who will suffer.

Yours faithfully,

Corinne Fenton

The Dog on the Tuckerbox
by Corinne Fenton
Illustrated by Peter Gouldthorpe
published by Black Dog Books ~
has just been named
a Notable Book in both the Picture Book
and Information Book categories
in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards

www.corinnefenton.com
www.bdb.com.au