

As an author, teacher and mother I am deeply concerned about the possible removal of current Parallel Import Restrictions.

Already it is barely possible for all but a handful of our published and successful Australian children's authors and illustrators to make an income from their work. If PIRs are removed, this situation will worsen forcing more authors and independent Australian publishers out of the industry. The Australian marketplace will be flooded with remaindered books and Australian content will be lost.

I value Australian spelling, ideas and content. I am not in *favor* of our books becoming *Americanized*. As a regional West Australian author I enjoy reading stories spanning a range of settings, including the bush, our beaches, our towns, cities and other Australian areas. I do not want our drovers and cattlemen to become 'cowboys' working on ranches.

To foster literacy we need to be able to offer children books that speak to them. To offer them a mix of cultural voices - including Australian voices. Removing PIRs will not enable our books to compete with powerful overseas publishing houses with huge marketing budgets. Australian children deserve Australian content. The Coalition for Cheaper Books are interested in financial gain not the needs and best interests of Australian readers.

Please listen to the authors, parents and teachers who care about fostering literacy and a love of reading in Australian children.
Let's not lose the wobbegongs and wombats.

Sincerely

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* local article following illustrating 'local content'