

I write to urge the Commission to reject the proposal to change copyright restrictions on parallel importation. As an Australian author I am concerned that after 12 months my royalties may be seriously eroded by overseas editions of my work coming into Australia, on which I receive significantly less than the 10% royalty I earn on local editions.

I am also concerned that there may be a detrimental cultural effect, with largely American versions of our work becoming the more common scenario. Our version of English differs in many small but significant ways from American English, and deserves whatever protection we can offer it. This is not about being ethnocentric, but rather a preservation of our own rich uniqueness as Australians.

Finally, if the Commission admits that “there are insufficient data to fully describe and analyse the books market”, and that measuring the price impact of territorial copyright is “problematic, (from your interim report) surely it would make far greater sense to leave the situation as it currently stands, at least until those 'problematic' issues can be better investigated..

I strongly urge the Commission to back away from the interim resolution, and to maintain the status quo.

Yours sincerely,

James Roy
16 April 2009