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DR IVOR INDYK, PUBLISHER

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TO THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION
PARALLEL IMPORTATION OF BOOKS

Giramondo is one of the Australian independent literary publishers often said to be at risk if Australian territorial copyright is surrendered, even after 12 months, as recommended by the Commission.

I believe we are.

Here is an actual situation. In June 1997 one of our titles, Alexis Wright's novel *Carpentaria*, won the Miles Franklin Literary Award, Australia's most prestigious literary prize, and four other major prizes. It was first published in August 1996. After a burst of interest on the part of the public, it has now settled into a small but regular sales pattern of 150-200 copies a month.

As most of our literary titles do not have substantial or sustained sales, we are dependent for our existence on the modest but consistent return shown by titles like *Carpentaria*. This novel has recently been published in both the UK and the US. If the regime recommended by the Commission was now in effect, there would be nothing to stop either the UK or the US publisher, or any wholesaler to whom they might sell copies of their edition, from importing their copies directly into Australian bookstores. Were this to happen, the income we derive from *Carpentaria*, important but precarious as it is, would be undermined, as would the viability of our company.

Were we to fold, important Australian authors would find themselves without a publisher. This includes poets, essayists and short story writers, whose titles sell only in very limited quantities, and are subsidised by books like *Carpentaria*.

Yours sincerely,