



**Submission to the Australian Government Productivity
Commission**

In response to the Discussion Draft relating to

**Copyright Restrictions
on the Parallel Importation of Books**

from

The Book Publishers Association of New Zealand

17 April 2009

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**To the Productivity Commission
Re: Parallel Importation of Books**

This submission is a follow up to the initial submission we made in January 2009 and is in response to the release of the Discussion Draft released by the Productivity Commission in March this year.

The Book Publishers Association of New Zealand (BPANZ) is concerned about the impact of the recommended changes to the Parallel Import Restrictions as outlined in the Productivity Commission Discussion Draft.

Australia boasts an enviable local publishing industry which supports and vigorously promotes Australian authors and their works both internally and internationally. Exclusivity of market is a crucial factor in that success.

First, publication of overseas titles by Australian publishers helps support the publishing infrastructure—from publicists to warehouses—that undergirds the success of Australian authors. The New Zealand experience of an open market, which has led to a number of multinational publishers closing their New Zealand offices, has hurt local authors and consumers.

Second, by actively buying rights to international titles, Australian publishers establish the business connections that enable them to successfully sell rights to Australian authored titles. Again, it is significant that since the open market in New Zealand publishers here have bought few rights, and that it has been Australian publishers with these international connections who have sold rights around world to New Zealand authors like Lloyd Jones and Bernard Beckett.

The recommendation to abolish the current system will have a dramatic effect on Australian publishers' ability to successfully promote Australian writing within the country and around the world.

Yours sincerely,

Anne de Lautour
Association Director
Book Publishers Association of New Zealand