

Thank you for supplying your initial draft document.

I feel that there is little clarification on the nature of the books that would be imported back into this country, and their cost to bookstores.

Bookstores will buy the books at scrap paper value, saving the US publishers from having them pulped. It would be easy for stores to make significant profits, however, the books that originally were written and published in Australia will have been significantly changed when republished in the USA.

Not only is spelling totally Americanised, but whole paragraphs deleted if it is felt by US editors that what has been written to be irrelevant to the US experience.

I would like my children to go to stores with the safe knowledge that the books they choose to read will be original Australian versions printed in Australian English and with unadulterated Australian text.

Although stores advocating change are telling shoppers that they will receive cheaper books, I do not believe their customers and supporters all realise the significant changes that will have been made to content. And no price drop is guaranteed - stores will be free to charge what they wish.

I hope that the Productivity Commission will advise the Government that Parallel Importation of books originally written and published in Australia, but always changed in content and spelling, will be detrimental to the maintenance of Australian culture through reading. I feel that it is vital for the education and nurturing of children that they read Australian versions of books with full Australian content, as intended by Authors.

I see no reason why Australian publishers would invest capital in creating books that would be undercut by the importation of identically titled books purchased by stores from overseas. Surely our Australian publishing industry would react by publishing fewer books by fewer authors - again, to the detriment of the Australian population.

It would be better for consumers if the Australian publishing industry was able to expand and produce more uniquely Australian books - not fewer.

Please encourage the Government to maintain the current system, which works well. It ensures a vibrant publishing industry and the kinds of book I and my family and friends wish to read.

With thanks

Peter Taylor