

ATT: Productivity Commission

I am sorry that I missed the deadline on Friday 17 April for further submissions regarding the proposed adverse changes to Australian copyright. I hope you will accept this document.

The reason for my late submission is that I have been very occupied in the complex arrangements for the launch on the evening of Thursday 16 April of a book on which I have been working since September 2001. Friday was occupied with a full day session with the publisher, editor and designer who had all come from Melbourne for the event, and an Aboriginal adviser and educator from the SA Far West Coast.

The book is *Maralinga - the Anangu Story*, which has already received a 5 star review in the *Australian Bookseller and Publisher*. It involved working with the Aboriginal people of the Yalata and Oak Valley Communities in the far west of South Australia, using very inadequate phone and mail connections, as well as on site consultations and workshops in Adelaide.

Arrangements for the launch at Tandanya Aboriginal Cultural Institute, which included travel, transport and accommodation for the ten informants and artists, and other community members, have been extremely difficult and time-consuming. So have all the interviews and articles over the last several weeks for promotion of the book.

Maralinga - the Anangu Story is a superbly produced full colour book.

The Australian publisher, Allen & Unwin has, with great dedication and commitment, invested enormously to enable the Anangu people to tell, with my assistance, their experiences. These Aboriginal people were forcibly removed from their country in 1952 to allow the British nuclear tests to take place for 10 years. Their traditional lands will remain contaminated by plutonium for another 24 000 years.

This shocking and extremely important chapter of Australian history must be available to young people, as well as the wider general readership. **And there are many other Australian Aboriginal stories which must also be told. Under the proposed alteration to copyright it is most unlikely that any Australian publisher would be able to undertake the difficult, sensitive and costly work involved. It is certain that offshore publishers are not in a position to do so and would not be interested.**

Australia is at last becoming aware that it has another history that must be recorded and published before true reconciliation can be achieved. **Any move to restrict or curtail the potential to develop this immensely important aspect of Australian publishing and thereby deny Australians the opportunity to learn about the unique past of our nation must be strongly opposed.**

I know first hand what *Maralinga - the Anangu Story* means to the Aboriginal people who have been so cruelly wronged. It has already brought hope, healing and self-respect to them. Now that the book is published it will bring new knowledge to the wider Australian society of a great injustice - the irreparable damage to a large swathe of this continent and the grief of its people.

Maralinga - the Anangu Story went into reprint before it was published. All royalties go to a trust fund to assist in providing opportunities for further education for young Anangu.

I hope that under these unusual circumstances you will be willing to accept this late submission, which brings forward another powerful argument against allowing Australian copyright to be eroded. Australia's territorial copyright must be maintained.

Surrender of this important property would provide a subsidy for UK and US publishing industries and allow dumping on Australian markets. Other countries, such as Canada, have restricted parallel importation in order to support and maintain a viable domestic publishing industry, providing a wide range of skilled jobs in the local book trade.

The Commonwealth Government has provided support for the child care sector and the car industry, *including foreign manufacturers*. Parallel importation would cause the widespread loss of jobs in the publishing industry.

Territorial Copyright is the foundation of Australia's identity and culture. There is neither economic nor cultural rationale in abolishing it.

Christobel Mattingley AM, DUnivSA.

Editor/researcher, *Survival in Our Own Land: 'Aboriginal' Experiences in 'South Australia' since 1836*, first published 1988, now in its 5th printing. All royalties from the 5th printing support an Aboriginal scholarship at the University of South Australia.

Stonyfell SA 5066