

Submission re Australian Intellectual Property Arrangements

- In publishing, copyright, and in particular territorial copyright, is the core system by which writers and creators are rewarded for their ideas. Trade in rights is the way the business works. Authors have the right to decide if, when and how their work is made public.
- Copyright is a property right. Calling it a monopoly is misleading and deceptive.
- Free isn't fair. A wide-ranging educational exception has devastated educational publishing in Canada;
- Allowing parallel imports would make it harder to invest in Australian authors, so there would be less diversity and fewer Australian titles for Australian readers;
- The biggest difference between the US-style 'fair use' and our own 'fair dealing' is that ours includes 'equitable remuneration. Ours is like a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. Theirs is for a fair day's work, without any pay.
- The report says copyright is weighted too much in favour of creators. Their changes will reduce the incomes of Australian writers. They'll get lower royalties and lower advances.
- Far fewer high-quality, local educational resources vital to Australian curricula will not be produced
- Consumer are already free to buy books from anywhere in the world
- There is no guarantee that books will be cheaper if PIRs are removed. Look what happened in New Zealand. Prices fell further in Australia, but the range of titles available shrank.
- Australian publishers are not dependent on Government subsidies
- Australian authors will be back where they were when the Australian right was bundled with Commonwealth rights - dealing with publishers far away for whom they're a low priority.
- Jobs will be lost in Australian publishing, bookselling and printing.
- It will be bad for independent booksellers.
- The Productivity Commission's data is almost 10 years' old and since 2008, the price of books in Australia has reduced by 25%.
- World Trade Organisation chief economist, Robert Koopman, recently commented that the PC's call for weaker intellectual property protections sells local firms short. He was surprised to hear of the proposed changes and the idea that they were justified because Australia was a net importer of innovation.

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