

Dear Commissioners

When a book is published in Australia and then the rights are sold overseas, I understand that the overseas publisher can change the content without needing the author's or original publisher's permission. In the USA, the spelling, grammar and phraseology of children's books will thus most likely be Americanized. If it's a children's book with Australian wildlife named, the creatures/critters are likely to become beavers and coyotes because, to quote an American editor looking at a story at an international symposium, "What's a dingo and what's an echidna? Our children would not be interested in those."

The supply of cheap copies from overseas is not controlled by the offshore publisher, but by the private wholesaler/distributor that they use. Cheap foreign editions are likely to be favoured (or favored) by Australian stores for maximum profit, and more expensive but Australian copies possibly not even stocked and made available for our purchase.

I prefer to keep the present parallel importation restrictions as they currently exist as they do a good job in retaining our children's books (and those for adults) with Australian content and Australian spelling, which I prefer and want for my offspring and future generations.

What is fair use?

A creator studies for years, pays to develop their expertise (maybe including a HECS debt) and then spends their time producing works of value – books, articles, plays, poetry or web content. For those who wish to make writing their living, the income from their endeavours pays the mortgage and bills. In old age, payments for its use are the creator's source of income (to avoid being reliant on the Age Pension). No one other than the author pays into their superannuation and helps with a pension fund.

Whatever I have written, I believe I should retain the right to let others use it as I allow: it has not been created for other individuals to do whatever they wish with it without my permission. It's mine, and I want to pass it on as a legacy to my children for their benefit, as I could do if I constructed a piece of machinery.

To me, fair use and timed copyright is like saying to a builder that having built a house, you must let someone you don't know use any room they like at any time because it's 'fair use', and on your death, you as the builder cannot leave it to anyone else in your will ...and for preference, you won't own the house 15 years after putting in the work. And if you build it while you were young, you will have no income from it during old age.

I prefer to keep copyright with the creator in perpetuity and give them complete control of their own property. Please do not advise copyright changes that make it even harder for writers and creators to earn a living from their endeavours and to control the use of their work.

Thank you for considering my view.

Peter Taylor 3.6.2016