

2/9/2016

Gladesville 2111

Submission to the Productivity Commission Draft Report (April 2016) – Intellectual Property Arrangements

I am writing to oppose to the recommendations made in your draft report on Intellectual Property Arrangements released on 29 April 2016.

As an author of scientific papers and contributor to text books I know how tough it is to make a dollar out of writing and publishing in Australia. Any assistance Government can give should be given, we are still a small country and authorship should be valued and encouraged.

My concerns are:

1. Term of Copyright

While I understand that it is not possible for Australia to reduce the term of copyright to 15-25 years as proposed in your report, due to a range of free trade agreements, the recommendation is disturbing. Copyright control is an important part of authorship , it has taken decades to get it right and nothing should be done to undercut it.

2. Parallel Importation Rules

Your draft report proposes a change to Australia's parallel importation rules for books. I am not convinced that the current system needs change as I believe it does effectively protect the interests of the consumer, whilst allowing authors to maintain control and enjoy the benefits of copyright such as they are, at the same level as overseas.

3. Fair Use

Australian law has been through the copyright issue several times in past decades and the system now seems to work reasonably. Don't muck with it, I could never afford American style litigation.

Yours sincerely

Dr P.B. Mitchell OAM