

2 June 2016

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

I am writing to strongly object to the recommendations made in your draft report on Intellectual Property Arrangements, which was released on 29 April 2016.

I am an aspiring author, who likes to set my stories in the unique settings here in Australia.

My major concerns are as follows:

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 was nonetheless very disturbing to me both as a member of the public and a potential author. Everyone should have the right to retain ownership of their written work in the same way that any individual may maintain ownership of any other business that they have built. It is very concerning that your report is apparently underpinned by the belief that this should not be the case.

2. Parallel Importation Rules

Your draft report proposes a change to Australia's parallel importation rules for books. However the current system has sufficient safety nets in place to protect the interests of the consumer, while still allowing authors to retain control of their rights and income and enjoy a level playing field with our fellow authors in the UK and USA. We can all individually get online and order our books legally now. Lets not have huge influxes of American (or country) versions of Australian books, which will threaten to wipe out the Australian publishing industry. Not only are the spellings changed, but I heard of one author who wrote about a boy playing rugby and it was changed to gridiron in the American version. Do you not want Australian culture to be reflected in the stories our children read?

3. Fair Use

Territorial copyright helps publishers manage risk and support the creation of new Australian stories. Without these rules, authors would lose income and the support of a vibrant local publishing industry.

Australian law currently sets out a series of clear exceptions to copyright restrictions under "fair dealing". This is a fair arrangement that works well for all parties, including authors. If this were to change to the American-style system of fair use, however, authors would not only lose valuable income, but would also

have to pay the litigation costs if they discovered free copying that they considered to be unfair usage. This would be beyond my means and beyond the means of most authors.

I, along with thousands of Australian authors and readers, am deeply concerned that these changes will affect my ability to find a publisher and earn a living as a writer in the future. I ask that you reconsider your position.

Kind regards,

Tyrion Perkins