



Dear Commissioner,

I would like to make a submission to the inquiry into Intellectual Property Arrangements.

Regarding the recommendation to lift parallel importation restrictions it is my opinion that:

- Removing territorial copyright would inevitably lead to a dramatic decrease in the number of Australian books available to Australian readers.
- Australian rights would be worth less, so authors will receive lower advances and lower royalties. It is worth noting that the average income for an Australian writer is below \$13,000 a year. Fewer writers will be able to write
- With a less diverse and quality offering of books for readers, Australian booksellers are at risk. Businesses will be at risk; jobs will be lost.
- Book production for Australian and international books will move overseas, with job losses from every sector of the industry: publishers, printers, agents, distributors and, as mentioned above, booksellers. Over 24,000 jobs are at risk.
- I also believe that speedy availability will suffer and prices will not go down in an open market.

- The industry has already worked together successfully to improve speed to market with most books now available within 14 days of publication anywhere in the English-speaking world. Working together as an industry, we are best placed to continue improving the book offering to Australian readers, without government interference.

With regards to the recommendation that copyright should only last 15-25 years after creation it is my opinion that:

- Copyright is the legal expression of a human right.
- Copyright is a property right that ensures authors have the right to decide if, when and how their work is made public. Just as other investors do with other tangible assets like property and shares.
- In publishing, copyright – and in particular territorial copyright – is the core system by which writers and creators are rewarded for their ideas and creative efforts. Territorial copyright both incentivises and rewards publishers to license creative works and to invest in writing, authors and the production, promotion and distribution of books.

My opinions are formed as a result of being a bookseller for the last 19 years. I want the writing, publishing and bookselling industry to continue to flourish, innovate and maintain its international reputation for award winning books and leading the way in creative bookselling.

Yours faithfully,

Fiona Stager