

Removing the rules about parallel imports and introducing US-style 'fair use' would pose a great danger to Australian-made content. Here are the reasons I believe it should not go ahead.

Australian audiences want and deserve their own Australian stories. Removing the restrictions will mean Australian audiences will be reading fewer books about themselves and their own backyards. There will be fewer Australian books. It would deal a huge blow to Australian education and Australian culture.

The Productivity Commission's draft report is completely at odds with the Government's pursuit of innovation and a knowledge economy.

We have, at present, an efficient and creative territorial copyright regime and a thriving independent bookselling sector, something that is all but disappearing in other countries. Why would the government risk damaging that enviable position by removing Parallel Import restrictions?

Australia has thousands of authors, and many publishers, all vigorously competing for readers' attention. It's not a business that lacks competition or where there are easy profits. Most authors writing produces far less than the minimum wage. The average Australian author earns just \$13,000 per year for their work.

The Productivity Commission dismissed international experience of damage caused by similar changes in Canada and New Zealand where the industry has been severely impacted.

"The range of titles sold in New Zealand fell by 35%. By contrast it rose in Australia over the same period. And prices fell further in Australia - by 25% since 2008 - while still retaining the largest independent bookseller sector in the English-speaking world and achieving dramatic improvements in availability."

Canadian experience shows locally based educational content will be eroded with adverse effects for Australian teachers and students.

The APA has been joined by the Australian Society of Authors and the Australian Print Industries Association, the Copyright Agency and the Copyright Council in condemning the recommendations of the report.