

Dear Commissioner,

I would like to make a submission to the enquiry into Intellectual Property Arrangements regarding the recommendation to lift parallel importation restrictions.

I have grave concerns for the future of the book industry should territorial copyright be removed.

Please note the following:

- Removing territorial copyright would lead to a dramatic decrease in the number of Australian books available to Australian readers.
- Authors will receive export royalties instead of domestic royalties significantly reducing their income. It is worth noting that the average income for an Australian writer is below \$13,000 a year. This would act as a big disincentive to those considering a career as an author.
- The production for Australian and international books would move overseas, with job losses from every sector of the industry: publishers, printers, agents, distributors and booksellers.

### **Copyright**

The recommendation that that copyright should only last 15-25 years after creation beggars belief and will undoubtedly attract a huge backlash from the wider community for the following reasons:

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 in the same way 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.

I have been a bookseller for the last eighteen years and care about the health of this industry. On a daily basis I watch customers respond to the dissemination of information, the discussion of stories that often touch both hearts and minds. Australian content is an essential ingredient in this process. Undoubtedly the Australian writing, publishing and bookselling industry play a vital role in our cultural life.

If we wish this industry to flourish, innovate and maintain its international reputation for award winning books the proposal to open the market must be repealed.

Yours faithfully,

Suzy Wilson

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