

Removing the rules about parallel imports and introducing US-style 'fair use' poses irreparable damage to Australian-made content on many levels.

It means the restriction of massive numbers of remaindered or unsold books published overseas, often to an inferior, unfaithful quality to their original Australian counterparts into our marketplace and thereby destroying consumer choice, suffocating the Australian publishing industry and most devastatingly of all, crippling the Australian literary scene by altering and stifling authentic Aussie voice and language.

Essentially, everyone who potentially loves stories, loves books, and loves reading, will be affected by the removal of these importation restrictions. The decisions are therefore chronic and far reaching.

'This decision would cripple our efforts to put wonderful stories into the hands of Australian kids.' As a children's author I strive continuously to make this my one clear objective. To have to fight to maintain it is inconceivable.

Opting for the severely discounted, 'altered' overseas versions of our Australian stories found in discount chain stores further depletes a uniquely faceted yet delicate culture already challenged by a gamut of Americanisms. Of course, the Z Generation concerns writers and illustrators for children most. Children risk further literacy confusion. Parents will not be able to identify imported copies from the 'real deal' with ease and confidence. Essential settings, sense of place and character idioms will disappear from our language and when that happens, a people as a whole alter inextricably. Does the nation need to become more unaustralian?

If the repeal to drop current restrictions on [parallel imports](#) is successful, the effect for Australian readers, let alone those whose livelihoods revolve around producing those reads, will be knee-breakingly devastating. History has shown the real economic impacts such a reversal results in such as loss of cultural diversity and identity, book prices actually increasing – not decreasing, loss to economy of millions of dollars, one in four people in the book creation industry out of work. That person could be me...or someone I know. It makes zero economic sense. It is a travesty of sound economic thinking let alone common sense.