

2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am an author of 26 published novels, written across several genres. I wish to register with you my avowed opposition to the lifting of restrictions regarding the parallel importation of books into the Australian market.

On the one hand, I am, of course, concerned about my own income. I have many international editions of my book in circulation. Should remaindered UK editions, for example, be introduced into the market, I would lose a significant amount of money in royalties.

On the other hand, I am even more concerned about the issue of the preservation of Australian culture. Allow me to offer you an example. My 2010 novel *Wildflower Hill* was revised significantly for the American market. Along with the letter “u” dropping out of colour; the “taps” became “faucets”, the “footpaths” became “sidewalks”; the hunky hero, instead of taking his “ute” to the “tip”, drove his “pick-up” to the “recycling center”. Should this book, for example, outstrip sales of my Australian editions here, something essentially Australian has been lost.

I am one of the lucky ones. I have had books published. There are many other fine authors out there whose work may never be published, should Australia be flooded with cheap foreign editions. Publishers will be financially stretched and less able to take a chance on new voices, with the landscape of the market so radically changed. One of our most successful creative industries will battle to survive.

I am dismayed when I think about how Australian culture--Australian literature and its unique images and language--may be eroded by removing restrictions on parallel importation. We have struggled so long to get a foothold, to develop confidence in our voices, to make an impression on international markets. And with one decision, it is all put at risk. A nation's culture is worth preserving (which is, no doubt, why the US and UK do not allow parallel importations, even though they would be quick to exploit our market).

This government speaks so highly of innovation, creativity, and agility, all things associated with the Australian publishing industry. I do hope it will show how much it values these things in rejecting changes to territorial copyright rules. Especially given there is no credible evidence that doing so will lead to cheaper books.

Regards  
Kim Wilkins