

My name is Nicola Tierney and I am sending you this letter to say that I TOTALLY disagree with the commissions and the government's view that my legal and moral right to own my own work for 70 years is wrong. This proposal of only owning the copyright to your own work for 15 years is crazy.

I have spent, so far, 8 years of my life writing, investigating, spending my own money to produce a fantasy novel that I have great hopes for. I still have another year's worth of work to put into it. I have not asked the government or anyone else for hand outs, although saying that I have had some lovely people help me of their own free will. I am earning the money to pay for the illustrations, the publishing of the book, the marketing of the book and to pay for the legal documents that are required and anything else that crops up. I have NOT DONE ALL OF THIS JUST SO SOMEONE ELSE CAN OWN IT IN 15 YEARS TIME!

I am absolutely dismayed that bureaucrats and the government seem so hell bent on destroying another Australian industry. Australia has some of the best authors on the planet. They have brought great benefits into the society, some have even brought great wealth, not just in money but in knowledge, healing and insight and just because other countries are destroying their publishing industries and bringing their authors to their knees does NOT MEAN THAT AUSTRALIA HAS TO DO THE SAME!

I would also like to say that flooding Australia with cheap book from overseas is another way of destroying the writing industry. Look at all the other thousand of industries, not just here but in other countries, that have literally been destroyed all in the name of free marketing and now bureaucrats and the government want to do the same here. I cannot believe that anyone in their right mind thinks that by giving people cheap books which have no quality, no substance and do not hold up the values that most Australians hold dear is a positive way forward. It makes me wonder who does win in all of this because it definitely isn't the Australian people.

There are soo many other industries that bounce off of the publishing and literacy industry. Some of them are teaching creativity in schools, teaching science, technology, some are in films, plays, marketing, publishing, the toy industry alone is worth billions. None of this would happen if it was not for that person who sat down in a room and invented a world and spent years writing about it. Do you honestly think that the millions that are spent, here in Australia, on making films (based on books that have been written by an author) would be spent if the companies that pay for all that did not own the copyright for a darn sight longer than 15 years! I don't think so.

I have great plans for my books and I have NO intentions of EVER allowing ANYONE to own my own work that I have slaved over and paid a lot of money to create just so someone, who has done NOTHING, to come along and walk away with it ALL!