

Intellectual Property Arrangements
Productivity Commission Draft Report
April 2016

Submission from Thomas Bailey-Smith
3 June 2016

Dear commissioners and legislators,

I am writing to you as a parent, editor, consumer, taxpayer and voter, in anticipation that you will abandon the pointless, backward and demonstrably unfair non-ideas of 1) removing parallel importation restrictions (PIRs) on books, 2) introducing 'fair use', and 3) reducing the duration of copyright.

The job of a 'productivity' commission must surely be to promote some kind of productivity. **These measures will clearly, when balanced out, have an overall negative impact of the productivity of the nation**, especially on its educational standards and cultural heritage. If such measures make it into legislation, you will have to live knowing you did an appalling job and sacrificed much of the nation's intellectual life for the sake of Amazon and some chain stores. Ultimately, you may be remembered as worthless and compromised.

Working in the publishing industry, it is abundantly clear that positions such as mine will be liquidated should copyright changes be introduced or PIRs removed, as **sales of our books will be given over to those that have no legitimate claim on them**. Be it through dumped-overseas-stock importation or the ideas theft that is 'fair use', or allowing a writer's works to be **copied without their consent** while they are still alive.

I worked in the liquor industry for many years and found that **parallel stock was of lesser quality and made only the slightest difference to consumer pricing** because the importers, wholesalers and retailers took almost all of the savings gained from buying from overseas. Further, almost no one in the industry bought Australian stock from overseas because it was just too much of a dog act, even for liquor retailers.

The price of books is not unreasonable and has not changed significantly in decades, especially when compared to other media. They represent excellent value and having strong local content

guarantees an educated populace that can think for itself, compete with the US and UK and ask questions of its legislators.

But maybe that's not what you want.

Don't be weak. Please reconsider these absurd, deleterious measures and fight for the good of your nation, its culture and its children.

Sincerely,

Thomas Bailey-Smith