

In reply to the Productivity Commission's Report on Australia's intellectual property arrangements:

As a children's author I am horrified by these proposed changes. The proposed change to intellectual property systems will pull the rug from both innovation and investment in the Australian publishing market place. It causes grave concern for the wellbeing of our nations culture and communities.

Proposed changes mean, as an author, it would make more economic sense to pitch works directly to the US or UK publishers who value innovation and creativity with laws that place value beyond 15 years, therefore bypassing Australia all together. It's an easy financial fix for us- providing we are happy to neutralize our Australian voice within the text, but where will it leave Australian literature?

Reducing IP protection to just 15yrs will also discourage creative minds from entering the system and therefore momentum will slow in the creative arts, at a time when Australia has been defining it's voice and making significant impact on a global scale. I don't think as a Nation we should be trying to go backwards, relying on digging iron ore out of the ground to grow our economy.

Australia's history is in your hands, water it down, or build it up? 'In history's page, let every stage, Advance Australia Fair.'

Warm Regards  
Shelly