

1 December, 2008

Mr M Woods and Ms L Sylvan
Parallel Importation of Books Study
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear Mr M Woods and Ms L Sylvan,

PARALLEL IMPORTATION OF BOOKS

I am writing in relation to the proposed amendment to the Copyright Act, which seeks to abolish the 30-day rule and allow parallel importation of books into this country.

I am an author for both adults and children and am currently earning relatively meagre advances, but am making enough to be one of the few lucky ones who can call this a career. My smallish earnings from booksales are supplemented by radio, television and speaking jobs that come from the fact I am a 'successful' author. I've won a couple of awards including the 'SMH Best Young Australian Novelist 2006' and one of my kids books, 'The Princess and the Packet of Frozen Peas' has sold into the UK territory.

I am pleading with the commission to keep the 30 day rule. Parallel importation of books will cripple an industry that sustains local writing talent in this country. There may be some cheaper books for consumers, but local books will be at a competitive disadvantage, which will lead to a general decimation of local publishers. The flow on means that fewer of our books will be published, and we will have a culturally poorer society.

I do not know one author or illustrator who is in favour of this move, and although 'free market' is a godly concept to so many ears, sometimes it should be tempered for the sake of local expression and the people who produce the art that will make us reflect on what it is to be Australian.

Please recommend that the 30-day rule remain a part of the Copyright Act.

Sincerely,



Tony Wilson