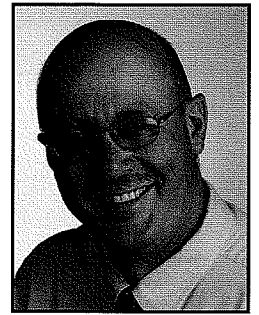




PETER DRAPER MP
Independent
Member for Tamworth



15 January 2009

Ms Louise Sylvan
Commissioner
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Commissioner

I would like to make a brief submission in relation to the Productivity Commission's **Inquiry into the Parallel Importation of Books** in relation to the current provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*.

I have been the State Member for Tamworth since March 2003. However, my previous employment also included 16 years experience in the publishing industry.

The Productivity Commission's review of Australia's copyright laws has recently been brought to my attention, together with concerns of the local publishing industry. The introduction of the 30/90-day rule in 1991 was integral in the success of Australian publishing and fostered interest in publishing titles by Australian writers, as well as seeking international rights for local authors.

I am concerned that any copyright deregulation would have a serious negative impact on the economic value of the Australian publishing industry and the future prospects for developing new Australian writers. The publishing industry directly employs over 5,000 people with any downturn in activity and loss of jobs, in areas such as editing, illustration, design, marketing and distribution, also impacting on the printing industry.

I believe the opportunities for local writing talent will diminish and the diverse range of books currently available to Australian readers will be reduced, if the 30/90-day rule is removed and the present provisions of the Copyright Act are diluted in any way.

Yours sincerely

PETER DRAPER MP
Member for Tamworth

PD:km