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**Submission to the Productivity Commission:
Copyright Restrictions on the Parallel Importation of Books**

The University of Queensland Press (UQP) has been a publisher of Australian authors and Australian literature for over 60 years. We are a small independent book publisher and over 95 per cent of our annual publishing list is still made up of Australian authors and books. The proposed disbanding of the 30 and 90 day rules will have a significant effect on our ability to support and nurture a local literature for the future.

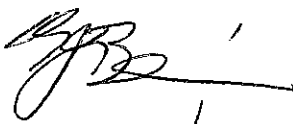
Once cheap foreign editions of books are widely available in Australia, it may encourage readers to buy these books rather than support Australian titles. This will have an immediate and direct impact on the financial viability of publishing emerging Australian authors. Print runs are small while a literary author's career is being established – standard print runs are usually only 2000–3000 copies and a recommended retail price is set at a level that will make publication financially viable – *just*.

We currently publish a B format paperback (198 x 129mm) at \$24.95 and a C format paperback (227 x 152mm) at \$32.95. At these retail prices and with these print runs, our books barely break even. If we were forced to reduce the

retail price of our books to compete with cheaper foreign titles, we would have to reduce the number of books we published each year or else shift our publishing philosophy to only publish more commercial and fewer literary books.

It can take years and a succession of books for an author to establish a viable career as an author in Australia – and the support of their publisher through the early years of a career can be the difference between an author quitting the industry and an author staying on to establish a career. Internationally recognised Australian authors such as Peter Carey, David Malouf and Kate Grenville were all published by UQP for their early books and without that support through the years when their books didn't sell in large volume, they would not have gone on to be national literary icons that they are today.

We would argue that the proposed changes to the law would adversely affect the future of Australian literature and the ability of Australian authors to get published in their own country. Whatever short-term benefits might or might not be passed on to readers by changes to the Copyright Act, Australian book readers will suffer in the long-term as fewer Australian authors are published and the nation's literature is eroded.



Greg Bain
General Manager, UQP