SUBMISSION TO THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION
RE COPYRIGHT AND PARALLEL IMPORTATION OF BOOKS

Di Morrissey. Australian Author.

It is with alarm that I must also add my name to the list of colleagues who are objecting to implementation of parallel importation of books.

I do not believe all factors pertaining to this move and their unintended disastrous consequences have been adequately studied by the Commission. There is no assurance that books WILL become cheaper for Australian consumers, while the move could seriously damage Australian publishing, booksellers and authors.

We are all aware of the importance of our culture, the need to tell and claim OUR stories for Australian readers. I have become a successful author in Australia primarily because my books are about Australian culture, places and people. Along with my Australian publisher, James Fraser of Pan Macmillan, Australia, we have worked hard to establish a readership for inherent Australian books and subject matter. The investment, the creativity, marketing and support from Pan Macmillan to build me as a successful Australian author and produce high quality books for the Australian reading public has been exemplary. If there is parallel importing of books, it may well be that Australian stories cannot be promoted in the same way that they are now.

May I suggest if the government wants to provide cheaper books to the Australian public, they then simply remove the GST on books.

I hope, in its wisdom and integrity, the Commission will acknowledge a re-assessment of an ill conceived plan and re-think its proposal.

Author of -

Heart of the Dreaming 1991
The Last Rose of Summer 1992
Follow The Morning Star 1993
The Last Mile Home 1994
Tears of the Moon 1995
When The Singing Stops 1996
The Songmaster 1997
Scatter The Stars 1998
Blaze 1999
The Bay 2000
Kimberley Sun 2001
Buster and the Queen Bee 2001
Barra Creek 2002
The Reef 2003
The Valley 2005
Monsoon 2007
The Islands 2008