

Romsey  
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Parallel Importation of Books  
Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428  
Canberra City ACT 2601

Andrew Irwin

Can you please explain to me how this ludicrous plan to abolish parallel import restrictions on books will help Australians in any way?

How will this ensure that Australian readers continue to be able to read good quality Australian books produced by Australian authors on Australian themes?

How will it help Australian publishers stay in business?

How will it help established Australian authors, who, incidentally, cannot live off 'psychic income.' Just because a writer loves his work, does that mean he shouldn't be rewarded for it? Developing a manuscript to perfection can take decades, during which time the author struggles to make ends meet. When finally, he is lucky enough to secure a publisher and earn the reward so justly deserved from his labours, you then decide that the reward should come in the form of satisfaction that his work is published? If you had a really good, enjoyable day at the office would be happy to accept no pay simply because you enjoyed what you did? Like everyone else authors have bills to pay, food to buy and I cannot honestly say I know of any retailer that accepts 'psychic' currency.

How will it help Australian authors still trying to establish themselves in a competitive publishing world when the publishers themselves will struggle to stay in business?

How in fact, do you see this helping Australia at all? What overseas publisher will want to put out books of uniquely Australian content? Their markets won't demand it, it's ours that does.

How will it help the economy? We have the talent here, we have the resources here, why sacrifice all that for the sake of saving a few dollars on a book? And incidentally, who will those savings benefit? I'm pretty certain it won't be the consumer.

The UK and US both protect their authors' territorial copyright by banning parallel importation. Australian authors and publishers should expect the same protection. Our economy is struggling as it is. Jobless figures rising daily. Don't add to that. For the sake of our nation, say no to parallel imports.