



The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

C09/15277

Mr Shane Jiraiya Cummings
Vice President
Australian Horror Writers Association
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17 DEC 2009

Dear Mr Cummings

Thank you for your e-mail of 5 August 2009 on behalf of the Australian Horror Writers Association, the Sisters in Crime Australia and the Romance Writers of Australia concerning the Productivity Commission's report on the parallel importation of books. I apologise for the delay in responding to your e-mail.

The Government has now considered the Productivity Commission's final report. It has not accepted the Productivity Commission's recommendations to remove the parallel importation restrictions on books.

The Rudd Government recognises the valuable cultural contribution Australia's literary sector makes to reflecting and celebrating our identity, as well as the national and international recognition achieved by many home grown authors. The Productivity Commission's report acknowledged that removing the current restrictions would adversely affect Australian authors, publishers and culture.

In coming to a decision, the Government has been mindful of the many views expressed by Australian individuals and organisations about parallel importation restrictions on books and the potential impact any changes may have on the literary sector.

The Government remains committed to supporting and developing a vibrant arts sector.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Peter Garrett