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COUNCIL



DRAFT

The Hon Robert McClelland
Attorney-General
House of Representatives
PO Box 6022
Canberra ACT 2600
6 August 2008

Dear Mr McClelland,

Terms of reference for Productivity Commission inquiry into parallel importation of books

We refer to the communiqué of the Council of Australian Governments' meeting on 3 July 2008, in which the Commonwealth Government undertook to request the Productivity Commission to review parallel import restrictions on books.

We are writing to express our concerns about the negative effects that changes to the current parallel importation provisions could have on authors, particularly Australian authors, and on Australian publishers. In addition, we are concerned that changes to current provisions could have a negative effect on the diversity of books available in Australia, including Australia-specific editions of educational texts.

We therefore ask that the terms of reference to the Productivity Commission expressly require it to inquire into these matters.

We would be happy to provide further information about any of the issues raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Libby Baulch
Executive Officer