



**Australian Government**  
**Attorney-General's Department**

**Civil Law Division**

24 May 2013

Mr Nick Champion MP  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Infrastructure  
and Communications  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Champion

Thank you for your acknowledgment of our response to your letter dated 27 March 2013, including responses to questions taken on notice, and for your additional query dated 29 April 2013 in relation to parallel importation.

The Committee commented on the loss of ability, in effect, to parallel import given digital delivery may be the primary way for consumers to access content. Buying content in an electronic form is ultimately a consumer's decision. While ever content exists in a physical form such as CDs and DVDs, parallel importation may still be a relevant option. However, parallel importation applies only to hard copies, as the focus is on goods that are imported at the border.

The marketplace is evolving very quickly, in terms of method of content delivery, physical or digital form and domestic and international markets. For example, as electronic books (e-books) become increasingly prevalent, parallel importation as a method of accessing consumer goods and services will have decreasing relevance. Australian book printing and publishing is under strong competitive pressure from international online booksellers such as Amazon and this pressure is likely to intensify. In addition, the technology of e-books like Kindle Books will continue to improve. This is similar for other content.

In preparing this letter, I have consulted the Treasury.

Yours sincerely

Matt Minogue  
First Assistant Secretary  
Civil law Division