

Greetings,

I am part owner/operator of the only bookstore in Muswellbrook NSW, where I also reside. I have grave concerns for the ability of our business to continue operating under the terms of the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

As I understand it, there are a great many aspects in the FTA which will place significant hardship on me, both as a business owner and as an individual. According to my estimates to continue operation if the FTA is enacted it will cost my business upwards of \$20,000 (*) I cannot afford these costs I will be forced to close.

I, like many small businesses

(<http://www.linuxworld.com.au/index.php/id;600985259;fp;2;fpid;1>)

use the Linux operating system and as I understand it the FTA will make it illegal for me to access copy protected media, even if that media has been legally purchased.

In addition the FTA agreement will extend copyright provisions by an additional 20 years. I believe this is to the detriment of all bookstores Australia wide and of greater detriment to the Australian public. The current copyright provisions are more than enough to cover copyright violations and for authors/creators to make money off their creations. My business relies on copyright provisions to operate, but I firmly believe that the FTA will only bring harm to my business and every other bookstore in Australia.

I urge the committee to oppose the FTA agreement.

Yours Sincerely,
Brett Mansfield