

Dear Minister,

I write as a poet and author whose work connects with readers and the West Australian writing community.

I support Books Create Australia's call for a National Plan for Books and Reading, particularly in support of Australian Writing Fellowships, Festivals and Writers Centres.

The issue I am most concerned about currently is the theft of Authors' Copyright works by AI companies. It has been my unfortunate experience to have had eight poems scraped/stolen by Meta and used to train its AI. In an article of *The Atlantic* by Alex Reisner titled *The Unbelievable Scale of AI's Pirated-Books Problem*, and on a downloadable page, I discovered my name and eight individual poems pirated/stolen without my permission. The article states, "When employees at Meta started developing their flagship AI model, Llama 3, they faced a simple ethical question. The program would need to be trained on a huge amount of high-quality writing to be competitive with products such as ChatGPT, and acquiring all of that text legally could take time. Should they just pirate it instead?"

This matters, because the stealth to which these companies pirate works is underhanded, illegal and criminal. Therefore, I would like the Government to safeguard the copyright of authors' works. According to The Berne Convention, first adopted in 1886, this foundational international agreement governs copyright. Administered by the [World Intellectual Property Organization \(WIPO\)](#), it ensures that creative works are protected across borders in all member countries.

Books and reading deliver public benefits such as literacy, learning, cultural participation, democratic debate, community connection, and access to Australian stories, history, ideas and knowledge. Every reader would at some stage experience that they are not alone - through books.

Action will safeguard Australian stories, ideas and knowledge and those created in the future will be discovered, read and valued.

Kind regards,

Helen Hagemann – MBA (Wrtg) Cowan