

National Cultural Policy Submission

1473096

Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you today to show my support for independent bookshops, and to advocate for their support in the new National Cultural Policy.

Local independent bookshops have been one of the most vital retail locations throughout my life, helping to give my community, my students, and myself access to literature and a warm community environment that few other spaces have managed to replicate. Sadly, I have seen many of these stores undermined by online retail giants, discount department stores.

Many of the most meaningful books in my life have come from such stores, including Richard Adams's *Watership Down*, and Robin Hobb's *Farseer* trilogy. I first read Adams when I was nine years old, and I've carried it with me as one of the most meaningful books in my life ever since. I have had moving discussions with people over Hobb's work while standing in a bookshop, I've seen families with young children encouraging them to expand their reading tastes, and discuss their thoughts on their most recent read—for living in a state that boasts the moniker of \the Education State\, that is teetering at the edge of a literacy crisis I think it in poor form to discount, and overlook the cultural and literary impact bookshops can have on a people.

Australia lags behind comparable countries in protecting its book retail sector. France, Italy, the UK, Germany, and more have introduced proven measures that have stabilised their independent bookshop sectors.

I believe we as Australians should be offered the same consideration.

I support the Australian Booksellers Association's call to recognise local bookshops as cultural infrastructure. Local bookshops are irreplaceable—but without support, more will close. As a reader and community member, I ask you to stand up for these vital spaces before they are gone.

