Right to Repair

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I believe all Australian consumers should have the right to repair and that access should be convenient and affordable.

How many goods now have built in 'obsolescence' where an item breaks a few years down the track, and it is a better financial decision to replace rather than repair? But there is an immense cost to the environment. Precious metals being extracted in toxic conditions with slave labor often brings us these new devices. Society and our planet would benefit greatly from a system of ***repair***, rather than of 'replacement.'

The Australian Government would do well to offer training to repair items and to subsidize and support repair businesses, so that it is cost effective for consumers to repair items. It would also create more local employment opportunities for Australians.

It is standard practice that we go to a mechanic to repair a broken car, but when it comes to white goods and devices, it is cost prohibitive to repair. I recently had my washing machine break when I moved to a new house. It is possible that something simply dislodged during the move, but because my machine was older, I purchased a new one as the call-out fee and repair cost would have been exorbitant. I didn't want to spend hundreds of dollars on an older device in case it broke again, and I'd be charged a hefty call-out fee even if it could not be repaired. But if there was the option to repair affordably, I would have had someone out and the washing machine may now be in use at home and not be at the tip. This can be applied for electrical kitchen items and smaller electronic devices as well. Indeed, I had a kitchen blender in perfect condition. I lost the rubber seal and the manufacturer no longer made that model and I could not buy the simple seal and the perfectly good blender had to be thrown away. All because I could not access a $2 rubber seal.

Please incorporate a right to repair and support with training and subsidies so Australian's will opt to repair before they replace. It is the right thing to do.