

## **'Right To Repair' - Consumer Rights - Australian Productivity Commission Inquiry. .**

'Right To Repair' has become a consumer issue all over the world in recent years due to the increased technology of consumer products. Manufacturers are restricting access to information (repair manuals, diagnostic tools) to consumers and independent repairers, resulting in higher repair costs, and 'planned obsolescence' of working products, increasing waste/energy etc. The Australian Productivity Commission is currently holding an inquiry into this issue and is seeking comments or submissions. Comments are not formal submissions but will be reviewed. An example of a 'Right to Repair' issue is farmers with machinery, e.g. tractors, that have sophisticated electronics that require software to repair faults, but the manufacturers restrict access to the diagnostic software, requiring the farmer to use the manufacturer only for repairs. Suggestions for comments: "Yes, the right to repair laws need to be broadened to enable consumers a competitive price for repairs." "Yes, 'Right to Repair' reforms are needed to increase consumer protection, and reduce e-waste."

A great deal of my more recent electronics technician career has been contending with this point. To try to make it a part of all procurement specifications to include all maintenance manuals as condition of procurement. The 'a most highly regarded education institute' did not adopt this, thus placing themselves at large disadvantage for equipment repairs. What was worse was the mandated need to quote all jobs prior repair. And without schematics etc is a very illegitimate tough call.

This is decades too late after giving away local (to Australia, Europe, Japan and U.S.A) manufacture for leveraging competitive behaviour. There are many impediment mechanisms to repair modules, systems and equipment. Have had to contend with may and not able to repair many items because of these mechanisms. Best approach is to re-establish local manufacture (to Australia, Europe, Japan and U.S.A) and impose tariffs upon anticompetitive behaviour including improper labour costings of manufacture.

Otherwise this whole discussion is rather pointless and we will be asking for submissions again in another year's time.