



Transition Town
Sunshine Coast

The grassroots community known as Transition Towns Sunshine Coast, appreciate the Honourable Josh Frydenberg requesting the Productivity Commission to inquiry in the 'Right to Repair' movement in Australia. We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the inquiry.

We are a group of individuals interested in providing a secure future for the residents of the Sunshine Coast and greater Australia. We see a secure future that not only provides for its people in terms of financial security but also for the environment by reducing the exploitation of resources through unnecessary consumption and waste.

The Australian Government has invested considerable time and money in their National Waste Policy, Product Stewardship and various recycling schemes. The Right to Repair is a natural progression and complementary of these initiatives as we move beyond the resources-to-waste linear model to a circular model.

As a collective of conscious consumers, we believe we should have the right to repair any consumables we purchase so we can actively and positively impact our community and the environment.

It is very sad to say it is cheaper and easier to buy a new consumable than to have the current one repaired. This situation has considerable impact on individuals and small to medium business finances and the environment; both in terms of using non-renewable resources and the waste generated.

We would like the Productivity Commission to consider the following:

- Introduce mandatory schemes for manufacturers of new products to provide spare parts and repair manuals for a mandated period of time, such as has been legislated in France and is being introduced across Europe. This is especially important as Australia re-starts its manufacturing industry post Covid-19.
- Tax breaks for repairing personal and household items as a financial incentive to repair and reuse existing products and reduce the unnecessary consumption of virgin products. Sweden is a good example.
- Advance the circular economy by encouraging the reuse of items to lengthen the products life to reduce resource waste and landfill.
- Open opportunities to small/medium enterprises like social and circular businesses to provide repair services within a framework that is stable and secure.

With new community centred "Right to Repair" policies and strong legislation to support this already thriving grassroots movement, we see great opportunities for our communities and the environment that are sustainable and regenerative.