

## Submission to Productivity Commission

### Subject: Right to Repair

The current environment surrounding waste management is focussed on diversion from landfill. A right to repair under ACL would ensure that there are diversion opportunities for e-waste and would create economic stimuli within the repair industry.

#### Data Collection

ABS data shows that in 2016/17 over 460,000 tonnes of e-waste was generated with over 50% going to landfill. The true amount of e-waste going would amount to more than this, considering the volume of e-waste that is directly transferred into landfill via kerbside waste collections (smaller items like mobile phones, dvd players, modems etc).

#### Landfill

E-waste contributes 70% of toxic chemicals such as lead, cadmium and mercury found in landfill. This creates problems in the first instance due to leachate from toxic chemicals, and in the second instance where future uses of the landfill site are limited. Landfill as a waste management option is also limited.

By diverting 75% of the televisions that end up in landfill annually there would be approximately 160,000 cubic metres of landfill space saved, this is only one item as an example but the total amount of landfill which could be saved is proportionate to the amount of e-waste which would be diverted.

#### Benefits

By implementing right to repair legislation there is the opportunity to not only divert waste from landfill but recycle valuable commodities within the products themselves. The amount of gold recovered from 1 tonne of scrap from personal computers is more than recovered from 17 tonnes of gold ore. Both extraction processes are labour intensive but the benefits of recovering and reusing waste rank highly on waste management strategies.

The right to repair would provide long term benefits to the economy and community.

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