

Australian Government
Productivity Commission

Dear Commissioners,

SUBMISSION: Right to Repair

Mudgee District Environment Group (MDEG) operates in the Central West of New South Wales, including the towns of Mudgee, Gulgong and Rylstone. It is an agricultural area, with viticulture, mining and tourism being significant in the economy.

Short-term single-use items, and limited repair availability of medium and long-term-use items, are issues of great concern to our members. Such items contribute greatly to litter and landfill. The associated unnecessary over-consumption of these items in turn forces unnecessary over-production, which is a significant waste of resources: natural, human and financial. We are very pleased to see this inquiry and the draft report. We support the findings put forward and summarised in the Key Points. We look forward to policy changes, and ACCC guidelines.

MDEG request the following matters be considered in your final report:

1. E-Waste: This is an urgent and important aspect of this issue, particularly considering the rare minerals involved in the manufacture of these products. When the product is actually at the end of its life, there must be full collection and recyclability enforced.
2. Internet connectivity: It must not be assumed that all customers and repairers can access Internet and mobile phone service. When planning 'right to repair' strategies, be aware that printed material such as Service Manuals should be available on request and at a reasonable price.
3. Quality Function Deployment: This concept is part of the Total Quality Management Practice. It requires that design for product longevity should be built in at the earliest stage of development. The actual design should make the product as simple, reliable and robust as possible. Thus ensuring long life and ease of repair.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Hadaway
Chair: Mudgee District Environment Group
23rd July 2021

