

Submission regarding 'Right to Repair'

Please investigate and ACT on the areas of most concern:

There are currently unnecessary barriers to repair:

1. Price of parts and high postage, which quite often makes new products from China cheaper than a repair.
2. Unavailability of spare parts locally
3. Loss of or not enough knowledge of shop assistants about repair possibilities and parts – no training in these areas
4. a lot of parts that break or deteriorate are plastic or glued, therefore prone to break or cause failure and quite often no spare parts available at all.
5. Longlasting quality is hard to find and very expensive e.g. pure wool, silk, linen, glass, ceramic, wood, steel... Those manufacturers need support, financial subsidies and advertising
6. This could produce thousands of jobs and make the communities happier again as people can be proud again for every quality item produced

Implications of repair issues for waste, especially e-waste:

Enormous amounts of personal items end up in landfill, if there is just a small issue or fault, because it is complicated to find a qualified repairer, get the required parts or it is more expensive to get items repaired than buy a new item.

A lot of times, when we needed parts for a computer repair or similar, the rubbish tip regulations did not allow for anybody to take items out of the containers, not even speakers, which had no connection to power, therefore could not cause an electrical fault.

Laws and policies stopping planned obsolescence would be of highest priority.

In earlier times electrical goods lasted 20 years or longer, this should not be a problem nowadays, as production and materials should be able to outperform earlier models.

Tax-saving through deductions of tax duty also forced companies to rather buy a new item instead of using it as long as it lasts and looking for longevity, reliability and sustainability

New developments in mobile phones/ networks / computers... and constant upgrading pushed companies to constantly develop new technology to keep up with latest equipment or outdo their competitors, although speed and reliability did not improve further in the last few years.

Recycling was not enforced, therefore only voluntarily taken up by a few big companies and responsibility loaded onto consumers instead of everybody taking responsibility for their products and its rubbish, which would have put emphasis on longer-lasting items being produced, instead it was leading to the uncontrollable plastic pollution, our planet has to cope with now.

Avoidance of plastic is the best solution.

After China declined our plastic waste, now Thailand and Vietnam are also rejecting our rubbish. "...For example, in Vietnam more than half of the plastic imported into the country is sold on to "craft villages", where it is processed informally, mainly at a household scale.

Informal processing involves washing and melting the plastic, which uses a lot of water and energy and produces a lot of smoke. The untreated water is discharged to waterways and around 20% of the plastic is unusable so it is dumped and usually burnt, creating further litter and air quality problems. Burning plastic can produce harmful air pollutants such as dioxins, furans and polychlorinated biphenyls and the wash water contains a cocktail of chemical residues, in addition to detergents used for washing.

Working conditions at these informal processors are also hazardous, with burners operating at 260-400°C. Workers have little or no protective equipment. The discharge from a whole village of household processors concentrates the air and water pollution in the local area..." https://theconversation.com/heres-what-happens-to-our-plastic-recycling-when-it-goes-offshore-110356?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=facebookbutton

It is most important for mankind's survival. We are choking our oceans with plastic rubbish, which ultimately will end up in the food chain and therefore on our dinner plates. Who will care for our planet, if not us? All remaining Fossil Fuels need to stay in the ground and pollution needs to end or we all will have to fight for our survival soon. WE had a taste of Climate Change in Tathra 2018 with an enormously fast approaching bush fire, which destroyed 69 of 300 houses and damaged another 30 and the following year bush fire threat from every direction, having had to evacuate several times, suffering from smoke pollution for over 3 months.

We have got already our first Australian Climate Refugees and Infrastructure damage, which will cost our Economy far more than changing now to a more caring lifestyle, saving energy, avoiding waste, reusing whatever possible and going back to natural materials for packaging and production.

One question we also need to address: What products can we buy that are made from Australian recycled plastic to support the domestic recycling industry?

e.g. More use of recycled copy paper in all offices.

So far online I've seen things like decking boards and park bench seats from Replas. I think the majority of Aussie recyclers make products for industry / commercial use, not much for domestic use yet. Customers need to be informed about availability of those and encouraged to use those instead of constantly consuming new products. [Replas - Recycled Plastic Products](#)