



Comments on the Draft Report from the
Productivity Commission inquiry into the
Right to Repair

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Pirate Party Australia would like to thank the Commission for the opportunity to make these comments.

We are pleased at the recognition of various different issues in the draft report, including the idea of better indicators of durability and repairability on products and an emphasis on repair rather than recycling. The consideration of modifications to copyright involving fair use and fair dealing is good, though the Pirate Party would like to see a comprehensive change to patent and copyright law.

We are also pleased with the identification of existing consumer rights, including the ability to have your car repaired by third party repairers without voiding warranty.

Nevertheless, we re-emphasise some points made in our original submission - that a "walled garden" approach is anti-competitive and should be recognised, and that international treaties such as the Anti Counterfeiting Trade agreement can obstruct right to repair initiatives. We also see a need for a more comprehensive review of how Copyright and other acts might obstruct the right to repair. There is also the impact of technical protection measures, which deserves proper attention.

Apart from limiting access, planned obsolescence and similar, there is also the possibility of the abuse of market control in the cost of spare parts. In principle, allowing aftermarket parts will help, but in some instances the spare parts will be so specialised that this provides an effective monopoly.¹ This is an issue that at least deserves identification.

Another contemporary issue is the re-installation of solar panels from one property to another, which is often not allowed under existing regulations. When a solar system is a significant investment and something the owner has grown familiar with, to prevent its re-installation elsewhere by someone who was passionate enough about solar to install it in the first place seems retrograde.

About Pirate Party Australia

Pirate Party Australia is a political party based around the core tenets of freedom of information and culture, civil and digital liberties, privacy and anonymity, government transparency, and participatory democracy. It formed in 2008, and is part of an international movement that began in Sweden in 2006. Pirate Parties have been elected to all levels of government worldwide.

¹The author can speak from personal experience here: a replacement 12V car battery was quoted by Hyundai at \$811, with no substitutes available in Australia because of how specialised the battery was.