

Right to Repair Submission

In Australia we have endured the decimation of industry by foreign companies to manipulate the codes of practice to monopolise the sale/repair of goods and services. We (the Australian economy) are currently under pressure to conform to other sovereign entities (the American Company John Deere comes to mind) whereby the legitimate owners of equipment (in this case Australian agriculture economy) cannot repair such equipment themselves or with any Australian company not owned by John Deere or suffer the loss/es of warranties or guarantees.

The ethos of Australian "fair go" is confounded by such remote actions. This condition has reached this climate over a succession of years.

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Australian industry used to conform to the Australian Standards. A set of rules that governed the integrity of goods and services that gave a modicum of consumer protection from unsafe or poor quality goods and services “under Australian law”

Over time the Australian Standards have given way to such mechanisms as ISO (International Standards Organisation. The first abrogation of sovereignty.

A classic example of this is in the spare parts industry. If I own/ed a Japanese vehicle and repairs were necessary the spares were produced and imported via a lengthy (monopolistic and time constrained) supply chain.

An example: Honda gearbox bearings are designed specifically and wholly integrated for Honda alone. When a gearbox requires

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*what is known as a “rebuild “the bearings come from Honda Japan. There once (fairy tale here) was a time when almost any bearing for any Holden, Ford and Chrysler were available for purchase at any local spare parts department. That meant that repairs for any of these vehicles were constrained by the ability of the repairers’ labour force to complete the job in a required time. Once foreign importers pushed cheaper imports and the inordinate blinding array of imported models and exotic accessories pushed the industry to accept **their** modus operandi as “the norm”*

*The answer as I see it is one word
“PRODUCTIVITY” Australia has abandoned its sovereign right to produce and maintain a viable industry within our own economy was derelict.(some said delinquent!)*

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Currently Australia is blinded by the international flow of currencies. The ability of foreign entities to manipulate the price of any good or service is entirely dependent on whether or not they wish to stay in any market and compete on an unequal footing OR liquidate!. WE have an agricultural Industry that is an exemplar of "Free AND fair trade. It's ability to compete with other sovereign nations is a laudable quality , however most of their gains were/have been derived from superior advances in crop management, seed selection processes and agility to change, The Australian manufacturing Industry have been held captive to foreign ownership of supply chain management and capital flows.

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All of the above observations have come about by the passing of time. The right to repair is a fundamental cornerstone of Industry. Is it possible that our steelmaking processes have to make repairs by dependence on the parent company suppliers of blast furnaces?? If there are exemptions to the right to repair it must be ALL on the same rules and playing fields.

The commercialism of industry standards has no better example of the dilution of standards than that of the cladding catastrophe in Great Britain AND the role of governments to understand and prosecute the instigators indicates the issue is as deep and as wide as it ever can be.

This happened because of lowering standards.

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If we return to a set of standards that are safe and have the consumer at the core our Australian Sovereignty is at risk.

Do we want that? Not from where I stand!