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Mr M. P. Burnell MP  
Member for Spence  
PO Box 6022  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr. Burnell, My name is Andre Alexandrov, and I am a member of your electorate, Spence. I am writing regarding the Right to Repair laws in Australia and their lack of strength in Australia. As you might be aware, repairing your own devices used to be as easy as calling the manufacturer to order parts directly from them and replacing the part yourself, often giving a schematic along with the part. Large tech companies like Apple and Tesla, agricultural companies like John Deere, and automotive companies have all made it nearly impossible to replace simple parts yourself in recent years. For example, replacing the screen, battery, or camera on the newest iPhone 14 pro, even with parts taken off a donor phone, has the phone's software detect the changes and limit the usability of the phone to the part where cameras stop working by simply replacing the screen with a genuine apple part.

Companies not allowing self-repairs create a massive environmental issue as devices that work perfectly fine except for one issue are thrown away because a repair from the manufacturer costs more than the phone is worth. With self-repair, a $109 repair from Apple becomes a $50 repair using parts sourced from a third-party, Ifixit. Apple's crackdown on self-repair has gotten to the point where parts for the latest phones are not available due to Apple's self-imposed locks on repair.

Replacing a screen or battery is something a 12-year-old can do, and I know this because I have been repairing my phones, laptops, and computers since that age. The right to repair is something that is very important to myself and many other Australians, and I believe that changes to Australian laws regarding the right to repair will have a global impact. The actions of limiting the Right to repair by these companies makes themselves monopolies on repair; having no other option than going to the Apple store or an authorised repairer; or having farmers' jobs stopped because John Deere doesn’t allow self-repair is absurd. I would encourage you to look at Louis Rossmann, an American third-party repairer who has been pushing for the right to repair in the United States of America since 2018.

Protection for everyday Australians to repair their devices, whether it be a phone, tablet, or a one-million-dollar combine harvester, must be protected under Australian law. The ability to replace damaged parts with parts sourced from third parties, access to schematics, and the ability to change parts without the device locking up is something that must be protected by Australian consumer laws.