

## Hon Colin de Grussa MLC

Member for the Agricultural Region

The Nationals WA Spokesperson for Agriculture & Food; Emergency Services; Science, Innovation & ITC; Ports

Mandatory Motor Vehicles Scheme  
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To whom it may concern

### **MANDATORY SCHEME FOR THE SHARING OF MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICE AND REPAIR INFORMATION**

At their 2018 State Conference, The Nationals WA supported a motion calling on the Federal Government to introduce 'right to repair' legislation, which will require manufacturers to sell genuine replacement parts and tools, and make repair documentation available to anyone.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the Government for progressing any form of 'right to repair' legislation in Australia. I believe that this is an important step towards supporting a truly competitive market, and, in particular, will make a significant difference to regional communities.

Having briefly reviewed the *Mandatory Scheme for the Sharing of Motor Vehicle Service and Repair Information Consultation Paper*, I support the objectives the introduction of a mandatory code aims to fulfil, and the broader paper.

As identified in the Code Scope, the current proposal "would not initially include two or three-wheeled vehicles; farm, construction or heavy vehicles". I urge the Government to consider extending the scope of the Code, or implementing a separate Code, that would address these vehicles.

Farming machinery involves complex computerised systems that rely on embedded software to function, and as they've become more hi-tech, the ability to fix them has become increasingly complex. Major machinery producers require customers to sign a licence agreement that forbids them from performing any software repairs.

In practical terms, this means local independent mechanics cannot repair machinery, and farmers may have to travel hundreds of kilometres during their busiest times to fix machinery, or have to pay thousands of dollars in callout fees for authorised repair agents. The costs associated with loss of productivity are huge, and have a flow on effect to the wider economy.

Introducing a Code that supports 'right to repair' issues for agricultural machinery will have a positive impact on the agricultural industry, and should be given due consideration by the Australian Government. At least 17 states in the United States have introduced legislation supporting this 'right to repair'.

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In addition, there has also been a movement in the United States calling for 'right to repair' legislation to allow people greater choice and ease to repair personal devices such as smartphones, laptops and tablets. Our society is increasingly relying on smart devices to assist us in our day to day living, and it is not always easy for people to access approved repairers. I encourage the Government to also consider 'right to repair' legislation that will allow more localised access to smart device repairers.

In closing, I would like to again congratulate the Australian Government for its initial progress into improving the access of independent repair shops to genuine parts, tools and information that will help aid in the repair process.

Should you wish to discuss my submission further, please do not hesitate to contact my electorate office on 08 9071 6555 or email [colin.degrussa@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:colin.degrussa@mp.wa.gov.au)

Kind regards



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