REPAIR NETWORK AOTEAROA

Briefing for MPs ahead of the 2026 election

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A Right to Repair for New Zealand

When something breaks — a phone, a washing machine, a tractor — the owner should be able to fix it themselves or get it fixed, by whoever they choose, at a fair price.

Right to Repair legislation makes this a legal requirement, obliging manufacturers to make parts, repair manuals and diagnostic tools available to owners and independent repairers, not just to their own authorised networks.

We are asking you to:

1. **Publicly support the principle of Right to Repair for New Zealand.**
2. **Include a practical, phased Right to Repair in your Party's 2026 policy platform.**

We're not asking you to legislate today, we're asking for a firm, public marker that your Party supports the Right to Repair. Overseas experience is showing a phased approach, targeting specific high-impact products such as agricultural equipment and large household appliances, offers a workable path to getting this right.

Why is the Right to Repair needed?

Many manufacturers make repair difficult outside of their own systems. A broken tractor may sit idle for days waiting for an authorised technician, when the farmer or a local mechanic could fix it quickly — if they had access to the correct parts or software. Appliance owners face the same problem: a faulty washing machine is often discarded because repair is made unavailable or uneconomical. This costs money, limits consumer choice, and creates waste.

International modelling suggests NZ generates roughly 100,000 tonnes of e-waste each year, around 20 kilograms per person.[1] A Whangarei case study found less than 2% of e-waste is recycled.[2] Government data shows the number of appliance repair businesses in NZ fell 41% since 2000 (708 to 420), with repair jobs falling 34% over the same period (1,200 to 790).[3] The rapidly disappearing repair industry is a result of manufacturers making repair too hard or too costly.

What does Right to Repair achieve?

Business fairness

Right to Repair legislation levels the playing field, so repair-friendly businesses aren't undercut by manufacturers who make repair difficult. Smart manufacturers turn repairability into a genuine market advantage rather than a cost. Many local businesses have publicly supported the Right to Repair, including Applico Ltd (large appliances), GTech (agricultural equipment), Blunt (umbrellas) and La Marzocco (coffee machines).

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[1] Global E-waste Monitor 2024 (UNITAR/ITU), ewastemonitor.info; NZ figure per Greenbox NZ / NZ Herald, 2024, citing GEM 2024: greenbox.co.nz/2024/07/26/addressing-new-zealands-great-e-waste-problem.

[2] Masters, V. (2019). 'Is Voluntary Product Stewardship for E-Waste Working in New Zealand? A Whangarei Case Study.' Sustainability, 11(11), 3063. mdpi.com/2071-1050/11/11/3063.

[3] Stats NZ Business Demography Statistics, via Figure.NZ: 'Businesses in the domestic appliance repair and maintenance industry in New Zealand' (figure.nz/chart/IW0xisEu03j4YW09-tHHFjp4LIpSILfOF) and 'Employee count in the domestic appliance repair and maintenance industry' (figure.nz/chart/tAQeOoJ0aDCZo3ER-LXMBuBlRz6sryPs4).

Kiwi fairness
Overseas, legislation is changing manufacturer behaviour. In the UK, washing machine brands support repair because UK law requires it. Here, those same brands offer no such support, leaving Kiwis with a worse deal. We'll be releasing new research on this gap in a webinar on 15 September: (https://www.wasteminz.org.nz/events/15th-september-why-cant-i-fix-my-washing-machine)

Skilled local jobs
Repair can't be outsourced overseas or automated. Where repair remains viable, the jobs follow: New Zealand's machinery and equipment repair industry has grown 51% since 2000 (1,812 to 2,739 businesses),[4] even without legislative support. But this growth doesn't tell us whether farmers can choose an independent repairer with the same access to parts and software as manufacturer-authorised dealers — that access gap is exactly what Right to Repair closes.

Public support
People across New Zealand are already choosing to fix rather than replace. Legislation would support and accelerate something people already want. Repair Network Aotearoa supports around 80 Repair Cafés, and in a nationally representative survey the organisation conducted in October 2024, 77% of respondents supported Right to Repair legislation in New Zealand.[5]

Who has the Right to Repair?

New Zealand would not be acting alone. A carefully designed New Zealand framework would align with international Right to Repair legislation and reduce the risk of New Zealand becoming an outlier as global manufacturers adapt their products, supply chains and repair systems:

United States — State-by-state momentum: Right to Repair is a fast-growing, bipartisan trend. New York passed the first electronics Right to Repair law in 2022, requiring manufacturers to supply parts, tools and documentation to consumers and independent repairers. California, Minnesota, Oregon and Colorado have since followed with their own consumer electronics laws.[6]

United Kingdom — Appliances since 2021: Since 1 July 2021, manufacturers must make spare parts available to consumers and third-party repair firms for many large appliances and TVs. Parts must remain available for up to 10 years after a product is discontinued.[7]

European Union — Comprehensive rules live from 31 July 2026: The EU's Right to Repair Directive applies across all 27 member states. It goes further than the UK, giving consumers the right to request repairs from manufacturers at a reasonable price and timeframe. Manufacturers must also publish indicative repair costs publicly.[8]

Australia — Motor vehicle scheme extending to agricultural machinery: Australia's Motor Vehicle Service and Repair Information Sharing Scheme has required manufacturers to share repair information with independent workshops since 2022 — and has been credited with a $2.4 billion boost to the sector's annual turnover. The government is consulting on extending the same model to agricultural machinery.[9]

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[4] Stats NZ Business Demography Statistics, via Figure.NZ: 'Businesses in the machinery and equipment repair and maintenance industry in New Zealand' (figure.nz/chart/IW0xisEu03j4YW09-JfIPrwp6xomPyDh9).

[5] Repair Network Aotearoa internal count of active Repair Cafés, 2026 and nationally representative survey, October 2024.

[6] New York Digital Fair Repair Act (2022); California SB 244; Minnesota Digital Fair Repair Act; Colorado HB24-1121 and SB23-018 (agricultural equipment) and HB22-1031 (wheelchairs); Oregon HB 2700. Overview: Consumer Electronics Daily, 'State Right-to-Repair Bills: Legislative History by State 2026', consumerelectronicsdaily.com.

[7] UK Ecodesign for Energy-Related Products and Energy Information Regulations 2021 (SI 2021/745), in force 1 July 2021. Overview: Global Compliance News, 'UK Implements New Right to Repair Rules for Household Products', globalcompliancenews.com, 2021.

[8] Directive (EU) 2024/1799 on common rules promoting the repair of goods, adopted 13 June 2024, applicable from 31 July 2026. European Commission: commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/consumer-protection-law/directive-repair-goods_en.

[9] Australian Treasury, 'Keeping machinery moving when it matters most: Right to Repair reforms for farmers and drivers', May 2026, ministers.treasury.gov.au.