



Nelson Tasman Climate Forum

Submission to the Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee on the Right to Repair Bill

3 April 2025

The Nelson Tasman Climate Forum - who we are

The [Nelson Tasman Climate Forum](#) was launched in February 2020 as a community-led climate action initiative open to everyone. The Forum aims to bring communities together around urgent, strategic action to achieve the following goals:

- Rapidly reduce the region's greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration and undertake other climate stabilising initiatives, consistent with the urgency of the situation.
- Adapt to the likely adverse environmental effects of climate change and the resulting social and cultural effects, using inclusive and responsible decision-making to support these desirable outcomes.
- Respond to climate change in a way that recognises the rights of all living organisms, including people, and provides for a just, equitable, and resilient society.

The Forum is volunteer-led, apolitical, and registered as a non-profit partner under the Tasman Environmental Trust. In the five years the Forum has been functioning, volunteers have carried out over 30 community projects. These projects range across many climate initiatives and include monthly Repair Cafés in Whakatū Nelson, Motueka and Tākaka, a yearly Climate Action Festival, a climate action campaign called [Take the Jump](#), art events and photography exhibitions, a Climate Action Plan for the region, climate conversations with varied groups across the community, several waste reduction projects, letter writing campaigns, government and council submissions, and the protection and restoration of native habitats.

This submission has been compiled by the NTCF Submissions Group.

Please note: whilst the Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council have both signed the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum Charter, this submission has been prepared completely independently of the Councils. This submission is in no way intended nor should be construed to represent the views of either Council in any way.

We thank you for the opportunity to present this submission and for your consideration of our contribution.

We support the Bill

1. **We see repairability as a nationwide problem that needs fixing.**

Feedback from the public in our region shows both a strong desire to reduce waste and a sense that currently unrepairable items are a big part of the problem. There is widespread frustration at our inability to maintain items, often simply due to a lack of information and no available spare parts.

We do what we can. For example, the Nelson Bike Hub, run by a small group of volunteers, have restored and distributed nearly 3000 bikes that were brought to them in varying states of disrepair. Repair café volunteers do great work. There are local businesses that are able to repair electronic goods. However, for household electrical goods, and many other items, repair in our region is currently impossible, due to there being no spare parts. Our landfill figures remain far too high. Sadly, we know from research that a 'lack of ability to repair/the cost to repair' has been identified as the most significant driver for e-waste creation.

Experience at the Nelson Environment Centre shows that this problem extends to other product types.

2. The right to repair bill is an effective climate action costing the government nothing.

Manufacturers and suppliers should simply be required to include readily available maintenance information and spare parts. The costs of not doing so are currently borne by the consumer.

Just as the Consumer Guarantees Act has no regulatory cost to the government apart from the Disputes Tribunal (should it become involved), the Right to Repair Bill need not have additional regulatory costs to government.

The benefits would fall to the New Zealand public. Products would be readily and safely repaired and would last longer. Manufacturers and distributors will be disincentivized from transferring the costs of waste disposal of their products onto the consumer and the community.

From a climate change perspective, the right to repair bill would reduce resource waste and reduce landfill.

A further important benefit of the bill is that it ultimately helps the independence of our communities and households. This will become increasingly important as we adapt to rising temperatures and severe weather events. Tragically we will suffer more cyclone Gabrielles with some communities becoming cut off for substantial periods of time and having to rely on their own resources. Our *number eight wire* traditions of fixing things ourselves will again become part of our culture.

3. The right to repair bill will stimulate innovation, including innovations related to climate change

Repairing goods locally enables local people to find out how things work and, in some situations, come up with better solutions and adaptations. In the absence of right to repair we're seeing a trend for more and more imported items to become cheaper to buy but which are non-repairable. While cheap is good for short term cost-of-living considerations it does mean that we're becoming much less of a practical and do-it-yourself society. We see reparability as part of building resilience for our communities in the 21st century.

4. The right to repair bill will significantly reduce business disruption costs

In addition to the Cook Strait ferries and Air Force people-carriers that periodically make the headlines with their breakdown stories, farm and factory equipment breakdowns are not-infrequent and are highly disruptive throughout New Zealand. The more that we can ensure ready availability of high-quality maintenance and repair products and information, the more efficient our economy will become.

The quality of such information would be improved through increased competition that would take us beyond our current *cheap and cheerful* approach. Making availability of maintenance and repair information a requirement under this bill would serve to increase competition across all sectors who could be affected and benefit both households but also very many businesses. These are core outcomes for an effective NZ-focused right of repair bill.

End of submission