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Subject: Submission _ Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) tax arrangements
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Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) tax arrangements

Submission

The work environmental groups do in protecting our natural environment, wildlife, heritage buildings and communities is vitally important. All too often it is conservationists, residents, & environmental groups that clean up the mess left behind by the mining industry (coal & gas), construction companies and developers. All too often it is the work of these environmental groups that police the breaches by construction & mining companies when they blatantly pollute our waterways, glibly kill out native trees and wildlife while breaching their conditions of consent.

It is important environmental groups such as Lock the Gate, The Wilderness Society and Greenpeace retain 100% tax deduction for their donors. Because it is not just on the ground work of revegetating the environment, land management, rehabilitating injured animals after the mining & construction companies destroy the surrounds for their business activities (leaving a scorched earth for others to clean up). Environmental groups must be allowed unfettered the right to oppose bad government policies (whether in a court of law or the court of public opinion). Policies that allow the mining industry to get away with environmental destruction. It is important that projects are stopped from the initial stage when in fact they have no benefit for the environment nor health of a community & nation. Shenhua Mine and Adani are two good examples of bad mining projects that must not proceed. You know a project is a shocker when 2GB Alan Jones sides with the environmentalists to oppose Shenhua Watermark Mine on the Liverpool Plain and the Adani mine in Queensland.

This review is a con job to facilitate the lobbying of the mining industry (Minerals Council) to counter public opinion. Public opinion that backs the farmer against fracking (CSG). Public opinion that backs the food bowl on the Liverpool plains against a mine that will destroy fertile agricultural land & the water-table. Public opinion against a mine that will destroy the dwindling koala habitat. Public opinion that backs the profitable tourist industry against a multinational Indian mining company ADANI, a mine that will destroy the Great Barrier Reef and hundreds of kilometres of native habitat. Public opinion that backs the protection of the threatened Powerful Owl & their habitat in Byles Creek Valley Beecroft over a few McMansions and developer's profit.

The mining industry peak bodies believe they should themselves be free to campaign for public subsidies for new coal mines or coal-fired generators, or to spend millions to overturn a mining tax, in the interests of, and funded by, their cashed-up multinational members. A cynic might think the environmentalists have been winning in the court of public opinion so the miners are trying to silence them by convincing politicians to change the regulations and the law. Hence it is pure boondoggling and hypocrisy by this industry to stop others in protecting the land, communities and wildlife. Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) tax arrangements must remain at 100% for all environmental groups registered.

Michael Bianchino


Submission also attached as RTF file