

From: [Jonathan Crockett](#)
To: [DGR Inbox](#)
Subject: Comment on the Inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations
Date: Thursday, 3 August 2017 3:48:18 PM

Dear Sir or Madam

I have read the recommendations in the report of the House of Representatives Committee on the Environment on the Inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations, April 2016 and have reviewed some of the evidence presented to and considered by the committee.

It is clear to me that there was agreement within the committee to improve the operation of the systems controlling charitable environmental organisations as proposed in recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9. I can therefore support these recommendations.

What is not clear to me is why on earth the Government is wasting taxpayers time and taxes in trying to limit and dictate the activity of environmental groups, which, on balance have contributed so much over decades to educating the community and protecting the environment. All Governments in Australia are failing to improve biodiversity and protect ecological systems to an adequate degree. This failure is evidenced by every state of the environment report produced federally and within states. Even though some of our lawmakers fail to note this, many environmental activist groups do and they work hard to change attitudes in our society and in governments and have done much over past decades to get some action on critical issues. To curtail this useful activity by adding onerous and probably unenforceable conditions on retaining tax deductible status for donations to these organisations defies logic, is un-democratic and will impoverish our community. There are many other groups, such as the Australia Institute, the IPA to name two at opposite ends of the spectrum, that have tax deductible status but do not do "on the ground work". Are these sorts of organisations also going to be stripped of tax deductible status?

My family supports many charities, some doing on the ground community or environmental work, some that purely promote a more equitable society and sustainable world. It should be left up to donors to decide which organisations they support. Governments should not interfere in the way proposed by recommendations 5 and 6.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Crockett B. E. M. Eng. Sci.

Retired Consulting Engineer

Previously an Environmental Auditor appointed pursuant to the (Victorian) Environment Protection Act

Previously an independent Auditor for the Australian Greenhouse Office