

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to comment on the Federal Treasury's Tax Deductible Gift Recipient Reform Opportunities Discussion Paper. I have serious concerns about several aspects of the proposed reforms.

Requiring charitable organizations to report additional information beyond what is already required under existing legislation would place an unnecessary burden on these organizations and reduce their capacity to undertake their core advocacy work. It is also discriminatory in that other non-DGR entities do not have to report advocacy activities to the ATO.

The proposed reporting requirements place an administrative burden on the Australian Government and, therefore taxpayers, in addition to the burden on DGR organizations.

Any mandated requirements for environmental organizations to commit some of their expenditure to particular types of work (e.g. the proposed 25 % for environmental remediation) unfairly targets certain organizations and does not reflect the diversity of environmental activities undertaken by different organizations. Remediation of environmental damage is far less cost effective and provides relatively poorer environmental outcomes than can be achieved by preventing environmental damage, which is the aim of many DGR environmental organizations engaged in advocacy activities. If the intent of this proposal is to improve environmental outcomes then this is an absurd requirement.

The targeting of environmental organizations in and the particular provisions of the proposal are blatantly unfair and discriminatory. This is an undemocratic and politically motivated attempt to silence organizations acting in the public interest.

If changes to the DGR system are necessary they should be considered and proposed by an independent body, not by Treasury under the influence of private industry.

In summary, I am strongly opposed to the proposed DGR reforms.

Sincerely,

Nick Fitzgerald