

From: [Margaret Hilder](#)
To: [DGR Inbox](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION RE: TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT RECIPIENT REFORM OPPORTUNITIES
Date: Friday, 21 July 2017 4:57:06 PM

I am writing to submit my objection to a proposed "reform" that would require charities that have tax deductible status to spend a specified percentage of their budget on "on-ground environmental remediation".

Our current laws, as is the case in comparable countries overseas, focus on the purpose of the charity, rather than defining and/or prescribing their activities, and I believe that this is an appropriate and effective way for them to operate. It is also a legitimate use of our democratic rights. I do *not* believe it is appropriate, or just, to require that a charity established for the purpose of, for example, providing legal advocacy in environmental disputes, or supporting human rights, to divert part of their funds into an unrelated activity such as, for example, planting trees. There are already organisations set up for such purposes, and they fulfil them more effectively and efficiently.

I can see that it may suit some narrow private interests to ask the Government to constrain environmental voices, to restrict community access to legal services, and place new administrative burdens and restrictions on the charity sector. But it is *not* in the public interest, nor is it what the broader community would expect of our charity and tax laws. That is indeed the reason why our current laws (and comparable overseas countries) focus on the charities' purposes – rather than attempting to define their activities.

Therefore I submit that the proposed "Tax Deductible Gift Recipient Reform" should be abandoned in its entirety, and/or any part of it.

Thank you.

Margaret Hilder

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