

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF AUSTRALIA INC.

and

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



7 December 2011

The Manager,
Philanthropy and Exemptions Unit
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Email: NFPReform@treasury.gov.au

Dear Sir,

Re: Proposed introduction of a statutory definition of “Charity”

The Jewish National Fund of Australia Inc (“JNF”) (ABN 32 108 796 878) and the Jewish National Fund Environmental Association of Australia (“JNFEA”) (ABN 81 220 114 097) present the following submission in response to the Consultation Paper recently issued by the Assistant Treasurer, the Hon. Bill Shorten MP.

The JNF is the Australian arm of the Jewish National Fund, an international environmental agency headquartered in Israel but with supporting offices in some 40 countries around the world. In Australia, the JNF’s National Office is in Sydney with branch offices in Perth, Melbourne, Adelaide & Brisbane. The organization was established in 1901 and is entrusted with the conservation of land and natural resources in Israel but through the expertise it has gained over the years - in particular in afforestation & water conservation - this expertise is shared internationally through the organisation’s affiliations to world conservation bodies as well as through its various offices around the world including Australia.

The JNFEA is associated with the Jewish National Fund and supports the environmental projects of the Jewish National Fund.

The JNF is an affiliate of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) and supports the submission dated 6 December 2011 put forward by that body in response to the questions posed by the consultation paper.

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In particular, we agree that if there is to be an explicit 'public benefit' test in any proposed legislation, and there may not need to be one, some definition of that expression will be necessary. For the sake of clarity and ease of reference, the definition, including the meaning of 'public', should be explicated in the legislation itself. Further, the legislation should provide expressly that a body whose dominant purpose is charitable will not be precluded from being considered 'charitable' by reason only of the fact that it provides benefits in accordance with that purpose in an overseas country or countries.

We thank you for the opportunity of putting forward this submission.

Sincerely

ROBERT P. SCHNEIDER
Chief Executive Officer
JNF and JNFEA