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**To:** [DGR Inbox](#)  
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We have been advised that a Treasury discussion paper raises the possibility of limiting the amount of donations that charities may spend on environmental advocacy.

We strongly believe that such charities should be able to make their own decisions about how they spend donated funds. Advocacy to improve environmental policy is about preventing damage from happening in the first place, not only cleaning up the mess or fixing the damage after the fact. Advocacy for better policy can be the most efficient expenditure compared to the cost of repairing future environmental damage. Some environmental problems such as climate change need community awareness to be raised as to how its effects may be reduced. This is where advocacy comes in to play.

We are members of a number of environmental groups to which we regularly donate. We would be very annoyed if the Government decreed how our donations were to be spent. We also donate to other charities such as Peter Mac and the Cancer Council. We don't imagine the Government would suggest to them how their funds should be spent.

Pat and Allan Miller,

