

11/07/2017

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to submit comment on the *Tax Deductible Gift Recipient Reform Opportunities* Discussion Paper from the 15th June 2017.

A general streamlining of administrative processes seems like a fair enough move and would be encouraged.

What is of more concern is the clamping down on environmental advocacy organisations. The discussion paper makes mention of the organisation's actions providing "benefits to the Australian community" and that if these actions enter "illegal" or undesirable realms their status could be revoked.

This is a worry when government actions, rationalised on the shaky premise of 'mandate', seem often be counter to "public benefit" and be more about private profits.

Obvious examples of this are not in short supply. Government actions around building large infrastructure projects for dying industries in environmentally fragile environments, (Adani fiasco for example) comes to mind. Popular public rejection is basically unanimous, yet government continues pushing, so the forcefulness of advocacy groups to resist this must increase.

Another glaringly obvious example is government action with CSG. In many electorates there is *overwhelming* public rejection of it, though it is still pushed by government. When initiatives that carry severe environmental (both natural and agricultural) and public health risks like CSG are forced on people by a government in collusion with industry, there is no choice but to push back with force.

If an organisation's actions (sit-ins, obstructing, etc) are seen as "illegal", I would guess most people would support them regardless as they are acting in the *public's benefit*.

So in conclusion, I would strongly oppose increased reporting and restrictions of activities for environmental advocacy groups, the 25% remediation requirement and any unreasonable limitations on their actions in general. Especially in an era of government and corporate initiatives that so clearly go against the notion of "public benefit".

But a review of valid organisations and increasing efficiencies would be welcome. Religious groups that stamp about on public opinion while harbouring and defending hordes of paedophiles could be a great starting point.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,

Josh Morabito