

From: [colin.sagar](#)
To: [DGR_Inbox](#)
Subject: Environment Group tax deductability
Date: Thursday, 3 August 2017 8:41:19 PM

Dear Sir,

I would appreciate your acceptance of the following as a submission to the Treasury Discussion Paper on Tax Deductible Gift Recipient Reform Opportunities.

The controversial Inquiry is into the Register of Environmental Organisations targeting tax deductibility of donations. This has been widely condemned as politicised and resulted in dissenting reports, but the government is ploughing on.

Now a Treasury Discussion Paper on Tax Deductible Gift Recipient Reform Opportunities is proposing new requirements that aim to restrict and redirect environment group activities and tie these public interest groups up in red tape.

The proposed new rules affect supporters and donors – the proposed anti-environment rule changes would make it less attractive for concerned Australian citizens to give to campaigns to save our environmental treasures.

The changes would single out environment groups for particular scrutiny despite the papers claims the review is into the management of all not-for-profit groups. It threatens loss of the right to tax deductible donations.

Also proposed are onerous annual reporting requirements ...thus tying up the few paid staff and many valued volunteers.

The review also seeks to dictate what environment and socially active groups promote and work on. This is a blatant attempt to silence criticism and is more suited to the behaviour of some petty corporate run banana republic.

This so called reform seeks to force environment groups to commit between 25 – 50 % of funding into 'environmental remediation' works on the ground – or risk loss of tax deductible status. On ground works are important, and yet not all valuable work to safe guard our environment is on ground.

In loo of considered and effective Government environmental policy, the activities of citizen groups to educate the populace, encourage participation on behalf of the environment and actively work for government policies that protect our precious environment deserves accolade and monetary support rather than castigation and punishment.

With respect, it is the height of hypocrisy for successive governments with woefully inadequate environmental policies, to blatantly try to silence the very groups that have consistently proposed considered environment policies.

These citizen groups have in fact saved the Australian government and tax payer literally billions of dollars through avoidance of ill considered initiatives that would have caused environmental harm. Were any cost benefit analysis undertaken, treasury would instantly scrap any idea of removing tax deductibility from these citizen groups.

I sincerely urge the treasury and government to put aside any proposal to change the existing tax deductibility rules for not for profit environment organisations.

Yours Colin Sagar