

From: [Sue Schofield](#)
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Subject: TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT RECIPIENT REFORM OPPORTUNITIES - Treasury Discussion Paper
Date: Wednesday, 2 August 2017 3:37:11 PM
Importance: High

To whom it may concern,

As a Victorian resident I am very concerned about the proposed changes to the way environmental organisations can operate...and speak out ... about issues which are important to the viability of our wonderful country. This comment is set against a background of the following:

- In May 2016 an Abbott/Turnbull Government [inquiry report](#) recommended restricting how much environment charities can speak up.
- Under the recommendation environment charities would be required to spend a quarter of their donations on 'remediation work', such as tree planting or weed clearing.
- Now the federal Treasury has gone further, proposing **50 percent of funds be spent on remediation.**

Cleaning up or repairing our environment is incredibly important but it is **just one part** of what these organisations should be doing. **Another part is stopping our environment from being destroyed in the first place.**

Advocacy and on-ground environmental work need to exist together. **Both are needed to improve our environment and safeguard our natural heritage,** but each organisation should be able to make its own decisions about which path to choose.

For example -This proposed restriction would take resources away from campaigning to cut pollution, increase clean energy, phase out coal, protect our rivers and promote energy efficiency. These are key issues which I, for one...and MANY Australians.... feel are critically important issues and things which should be high on the agenda of our governments too. Sadly, the opposite seems to be true.

As [experts have documented](#) **this change is driven by lobbying from big, multinational mining companies which don't like the idea of community or environment groups challenging their plans to dig, pollute and profit off the damage.**

I am against this overbearing capitalistic stand of big corporations which think they can

bully their way across this land and force their will on the people...and the country, all in the name of jobs and prosperity...but so much more about their corporate profits. All too often this position – and activity – is supported by our governments. It is not right!

Environmental organisations are OUR voice. They will be heard! Please use your better judgement and do not enforce barbaric restrictions on them in an attempt to stop their voice. We, the people of Australia, want better judgement and governance from our elected politicians....not a dictatorship.

You need to support our country by helping environmental organisations to help this cause, as they currently do .

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sue Schofield

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