

From: [Clare Smtih](#)
To: [DGR Inbox](#)
Subject: Advocacy is fundamental to environmental concern
Date: Wednesday, 19 July 2017 9:16:21 PM

I wish to make a submission regarding the consultation paper which proposes potential reforms to Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) tax arrangements.

As a doctor I spend much of my professional life working to prevent foreseeable adverse outcomes for my patients. Prevention is always better than remediation, which is generally expensive and limited. For the health of the environment this is even more the case. There will be no remediation for global warming or the large scale loss of habitat.

As a regular small donor, one of a great many, I am very disturbed at the implications of the Discussion Paper proposals to restrict the activities of environmental groups, particularly while the mining lobby and other large players appear to have unfettered liberty to lobby politically and advertise to the community. The proposals in this paper seem to attempting to curtail civil liberties and democratic freedoms.

Peaceful protest is integral to a civilised society. There have been enough recent decisions that have set about an unravelling of civil society and transparent governance and this is one of them. The proposed increased reporting requirements are not convincingly about transparency but about hampering environmental groups' capacity. Similarly the totally impractical suggestion in Q 13 that environmental groups be responsible for the behaviour of anyone who turns up to an event seems to be designed to make it 'lawful' to impose disabling sanctions on minimal provocation for ideological differences. This is quite frankly outrageous.

Nothing is broken about the current arrangements even though the outcomes may not suit particular political parties - but that is at the heart of democracy.

Please do not make changes that do not support the advancement of democratic civil society.

Sincerely

Clare Smtih