



DGR@treasury.gov.au

Senior Adviser  
Individuals and Indirect Tax Division  
The Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
PARKES ACT 2600

Western Adelaide Coastal Residents Association (WACRA) is an unregistered NFP advocacy community organisation incorporated under the SA Incorporated Associations Act. Examples of WACRA's projects include:-

Assisting City of Charles Sturt providing input on issues as diverse as the Henley Square redevelopment, Coast Park, Asset sales within Henley, street art projects [Mosaic Sea Creatures, Torrens River Stepping stones, The Pelicans, Sea Eagle and Cormorants, Main Street stobie Poles], Adapt West, Biodiversity, Greening the West, Coastal Management, Parking management, Outside Dining.

On the wider State arena we have been active in advocating changes to Transforming Health, Nuclear waste deposit plans, the Torrens River wetlands, Coastal Sand management, SA Living Artists events, Greening Linear Park, Solar and responsible energy costs and use, Festival of the Coast and waste management. WACRA is an active member of the Conservation Council of SA which currently holds DGR status. We make this submission in support of the Conservation Council.

Advocacy is an important function of many disparate NFPs including religious organisations, RFDS, Red Cross, Life Saving clubs, Sporting Groups etc. Some of these also oppose past and present governments views on issues as diverse as abortion, aboriginal land rights and same sex marriage. Advocacy in South Australia has a particularly proud tradition including the movement for universal suffrage. The proposal to limit the autonomy of environmental organisations such as the CCSA to conduct advocacy activities is both undemocratic and inefficient, It imposes an unnecessary reporting burden on legitimate organisations and also on the ATO which must interpret and police the requirement for a set proportion of work on remediation.

These changes are a direct attack on the environmental advocacy sector, which is unpopular with the current government but very popular with many of the Australian Population. It is this popularity that is causing the Government's concerns. The major issue in conflict is climate change. A majority of citizens and almost all scientists are certain that man made CO<sub>2</sub> is a major cause of the obvious climate changes being observed. Heavily lobbied by the coal and gas producing exporters and users - the Government refuses to take effective action to limit CO<sub>2</sub> production in Australia. These legislative changes are designed simply to reduce the ability of environmental advocacy to

present views counter to the vested interests of corporate powers with strong government influence.

This attack on one sector aimed to lessen or remove their impact ultimately becomes an attack on democracy. The proposal duplicates bureaucracy while undermining democracy.

Jim Douglas

President

WACRA

PO Box 72, Henley Beach 5022

12/7/17