

From: [Matthew Bond](#)
To: [DGR Inbox](#)
Subject: Tax Deductible Gift Recipient reform opportunities, environmental organisations - response to the discussion paper
Date: Friday, 4 August 2017 6:24:38 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I generally support the review into DGR provisions and registration of charitable organisations. It is appropriate to ensure that a transparent, effective process is applied to regulating DGR status.

With respect to environmental organisations, however, I do not support any proposition to require such organisations to commit to a threshold level of 'remediation activities' (ref Consultation Question 12).

Our society certainly requires remediation to address the damage we have already caused to the natural environment but, just as importantly, we need advocacy efforts aimed at reducing and eliminating future damage. Given the great challenges we face from climate change and embracing the principle of inter-generational justice, it is imperative that we create policies that deliver a healthier, stronger natural environment year on year—both in Australia and internationally. Of note, we cannot 'remediate' the global impact of greenhouse gas emissions. It is imperative that we change policy settings to drive emissions reduction. Agencies that focus specifically on policy and advocacy should be supported to help create that change. They hold specialist skills in these areas and their advocacy work is most certainly in alignment with community expectations. It would be extremely unhelpful to require that such agencies also undertake remediation to achieve their DGR status.

I work in the international development sector where I have seen that donor funds (both private and ODA) create significant and sustained change when directed at policy and strengthening the enabling environment. Similarly with the environment, we must support agencies whose advocacy and educational work seeks to drive systemic change—not just clean up after the damage has been done.

I urge your review to remove from its recommendations any requirement for environmental charities to carry out a threshold level of remediation activities.

Dr Matthew Bond

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