

From: [Catharine Clements](#)
To: [DGR Inbox](#)
Subject: proposed changes to rules for charities
Date: Sunday, 13 August 2017 10:39:53 AM

Dear Treasury

I am writing as one of so many thousands of Australians feeling the urgent need to protect the environment and live as sustainably as possible so that everyone everywhere is able to make a life.

I want to state my objection to the proposed requirement that environmental groups be forced to spend 25% of their donated funds on remediation to keep their charity status. To me, the point of a charity or any voluntary group is that people donate to them for a purpose. The charity, in turn, honours the donors' intentions by putting their money to the agreed purpose. It should be up to the charity to choose how best donations are spent. The charity's only responsibility should be to account for monies spent and meet the provisions under which they established as a charity.

Further, to require charities to redirect monies to remediation is like directing them to wear Size 7 shoes only - whether the shoe fits or not. There seems no effort to understand the role the charity, its donor base or its means of operating. I believe this provision could be actively harmful to a number of charities and contravenes the main role of charities in our society, many who are longstanding and contribute substantially to education and research on environmental matters.

Yours sincerely
Catharine Clements

