

From: [James Cox](#)
To: [DGR Inbox](#)
Subject: Submission to DGR enquiry
Date: Friday, 4 August 2017 2:53:59 PM
Attachments: [J.Cox DGR submission.docx](#)

Please find attached a word document with my submission. Text is also below.

I wish to make a submission regarding the consultation paper *Tax Deductible Gift Recipient Reform Opportunities*.

I donate to various not for profit organisations, including environmental advocacy organisations. The discussion paper contains several proposals that would streamline and simplify reporting and administrative burdens for DGR recipient organisations and governing agencies, but these are mixed in with proposals that unjustly target environmental advocacy organisations.

These groups provide a clear benefit to the Australian community and the environment, in activities that range from simple awareness raising to advocacy and peaceful resistance to environmentally destructive projects. These actions include famous examples like the campaign to save the Franklin Dam in the 1970s and early 80s – an action that has led to a booming tourist industry and protection of a globally recognised wilderness. Changes such as those proposed would stop actions like this from going ahead.

Advocacy is a vital part of a healthy society. The consultation paper recognises this implicitly by allowing advocacy by other types of organisation. Environmentally groups are being singled out, presumably to smooth the way for environmentally destructive building and resource extraction work.

Not only is this unjust but it is also against the stated intent of the discussion paper, namely to streamline applications for DGR status and make them more consistent for all types of applicant.

These stated aims of the paper are welcome (I am presently going through the DGR process for a development NGO) as the DGR process is complex and onerous, but the actions targeted at environmental groups are contrary both to the spirit of the government's support for charities and the aims of the discussion paper. They should be expunged from the DGR reform process if it goes ahead.

Sincerely

James Cox

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