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Subject: Submission on Tax Deductibility Gift Recipient status
Date: Thursday, 3 August 2017 10:30:51 AM

Submission from Peter D Jones, [REDACTED]
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1. This is not a new idea as it was floated under former Prime Minister Tony Abbott, targeting voices of dissent over environmental issues like Land Clearance, Destruction of the Great Barrier Reef, Logging Native Forests and Fracking.
2. The Treasury Discussion Paper does not mention the fact that the REO (Register of Environmental Organisations) Inquiry Report recommendations incorporated into their review was not unanimous and that half the committee members delivered dissenting reports.
3. It is important to distinguish between environmental organisations and other charities which the Discussion Paper fails to do. This gives the impression that environmental organisations are being targeted. The focus seems to be directed particularly at advocacy work undertaken by environmental groups as well as the requirement that 25-50% of donations be spent on 'environmental remediation' work, though it is not clear where the 50% figure comes from, as the REO Coalition majority report only flagged 25% of income, not this new higher figure.
4. As a regular donor, I get access to annual reports and care very much how my money is spent. I strongly object to being directed to spending that money on clearing up the mess being created rather than preventing it, when it comes to issues like Landcare, conservation of the Great Barrier Reef, logging of native forest here in Tasmania, and fracking.
5. I also donate to other charities and recognise that advocacy by charities is critical to operating in a free and democratic society, and would further argue that protecting our environment is a public good.

Peter D Jones
3 August 2017