

From: [Andrew Laird](#)
To: [DGR Inbox](#)
Subject: DGR status of Environmental Organisations
Date: Wednesday, 2 August 2017 3:28:11 PM
Importance: High

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am a barrister who has specialised in construction and engineering disputes for 25 years. I also believe that clean air, soil and water and a safe climate are vital, which I would have thought was self evident.

Environmental non-government organisations (**ENGO's**) play a vital role in our democracy, including in advocating for the protection of clean air, soil and water and a safe climate. They also rely heavily on their DGR status to enable them to continue to perform their critical roles effectively, often on a shoe string budget.

Vested interests associated with the extractive and forestry industries in particular and their political backers (who stand to benefit greatly if ENGO's are distracted from their vital work and/or are starved of funds) are seeking to have the DGR status of ENGO's modified or removed. This would be outrageous in circumstances where those industries are themselves the recipients of tax deductible donations. Further (if these vested interests were to be successful in their lobbying for restrictions on DGR contributions to ENGO's) it would also be extremely damaging to Australia's democracy and our environment.

I oppose in the strongest possible terms any changes being made to the DGR status of ENGO's.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Laird

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