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PARKES ACT 2600

Re: Discussion Paper, Tax Deductible Gift Recipient Reform Opportunities

Thank you for the opportunity to oppose proposals outlined in the 'Tax deductible gift recipient reform opportunities' discussion paper. In my submission, I refer specifically to the proposal that 25% or more of the public funds of environmental groups should be committed to environmental remediation, and argue that this proposal should be rejected.

There should be no interference with the way charities or NFPs spend the money they raise, as long as they are transparent with donors about the type of work they will do. Donors provide money to groups which they trust. The effort to enforce a minimum of remediation work on all environment groups is a clear cut effort to reduce the effectiveness of some environmental organisations to campaign and to educate.

It is not governments' business to interfere and these efforts are undemocratic. We citizens have every right to provide financial support for advocacy and campaigning. The huge, undemocratic influence of business and mining on people elected to government has been clearly illustrated by former Minister Canavan, who is ignorant enough to actually admit he saw himself as representing the mining industry rather than voters. Both major parties repeatedly sell out food and water security in favour of corporations. Now some so called 'representatives' of the people are trying to inhibit our capacity to fund advocates for the environment to act on our behalf.

Proposals in this discussion paper are an effort to use DGR status to restrict or silence advocacy groups. These proposals must not be accepted. You must not restrict my democratic right to be heard, and when individual citizens like me are up against the resources of giant corporations with far too much influence over ministers, it makes sense that I want to provide funds to environment groups to advocate for me. As such, I ask you to preserve existing taxation concessions for charities and donors, and allow them to spend their money as we fund them to do.

Yours sincerely
Patsy Lisle