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Cc: [Galilee, Stephen](#); [Flynn Malnic](#)
Subject: Submission: "Special Tax Treatment" for Protest Groups
Date: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 2:36:45 PM
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Dear Sir/Madam

I am founding chairman of the Sydney Mining Club, a major speakers forum with 2,000 members and a lunch presentation of around 300 attendees on the first Thursday of every month www.sydneyminingclub.org

For any person who understands the production chain from minerals and energy products from the Earth's crust to the consumer's shelves, the apparently rising cultural opposition to mining per se, that is opposition to the process of taking useful materials from the crust as the starting as the first building block of absolutely everything our 'enlightened' and advanced society does, is quite simply a convenient ignorance.

It is convenient to those who seek to posture morally about the bread of their own existence - while eating it. Neither the opponents of mining, nor any sensible exploration or mining party wants rogue operators - that is self-apparent. We are united on that point.

Nor do we want rogue protestors who simply seek glamour, notoriety and martyrdom for their efforts in damning the very thing upon which their modern wealth and existence as Australians depends - mining.

The idea that such parties have that mining can be halted or is unnecessary is simply fallacious. Because of the ongoing and inelastic demand for minerals, be such demand be for energy or materials, a demand that includes the inflexible personal demand of such protestors for cars, fuel, transport and food, minerals will continue to be produced and supplied.

It not a question of whether - but rather of where.

The best possible result the efforts of protestors can have in jamming industry can have is to create pressure for the minerals to supplied from other countries which is an own goal not only for industry but for themselves. And here is the reason why. Australia's leadership on operating highly safe mines with world-leading environmental standards is widely recognised. So as global citizens the protest groups should encourage mining to stay in Australia, where it can be best done to the highest of standards, and under the gaze of science-informed environmental critics.

As a direct result of having domestic mines, all Australians will then better teach their children how mining is such a wonderful blessing for producing materials such as for photo-voltaic cells, and the steel and copper for wind turbines, plus the traditional uses.

Not taxing NGO and activist groups is a direct subsidy directing revenue from those who produce to those who oppose the same production, costing producers delays and higher hurdles in accessing investment. It is a double tax. It is firstly a tax on the efforts of the producers who 'make' for Australia, and secondly syphoning tax from the public purse which is filled primarily by those who do produce, back into financial anti-productive behaviours, as opposed to say productive spending on creative areas like schools and roads. Subsidising the blockers is the action of an 'un-clever' country and sends a bad message to the doers who drive the economy.

Like teenagers who practice self-harm by cutting, economic self-harm of this nature is not good for the nation's psyche, and although it may produce some immediate gratification for

those who practice it, it should not be encouraged and sponsored by government through the tax breaks or any other form of government endorsement.

Yours sincerely

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