



STEP Inc

Community-based Environmental Conservation since 1978

3 August 2017

Senior Adviser
Individual and Indirect Tax Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Email: DGR@Treasury.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Tax Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Reform Opportunities – Discussion Paper

STEP wishes to make a submission regarding the consultation paper which proposes potential reforms to Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) tax arrangements. We are happy for this submission to be made public.

STEP Inc is a local community based environmental group, with a membership of over 400 in the Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai area. Our group has considerable experience in analysing environmental issues and regenerating and preserving natural bushland.

As our organisation's main objective is to preserve and regenerate bushland we object to the proposal that deductible gift recipient (DGR) status should only apply to organisations that spent at least 25% of their donations on "remediation". Over the nearly 40 years of our operation we have seen the damage that is being done to Sydney's highly diverse native bushland through urban development. The most effective way to minimise this damage is to prevent it happening in the first place. Remediation is extremely expensive and time consuming. In fact it is a never-ending task.

Prevention involves a detailed understanding of many factors such as ecology, effects of nutrients and erosion from excessive stormwater and the effects climate change on the health of ecosystems and vegetation communities. Therefore funding of research, development of new regeneration techniques and education of the residents of urban areas are vitally important roles to be played by environment groups.

It is unfair to single out environmental organisations for the proposed restriction on DGR status when other social not-for-profits and corporate peak bodies do not have any restriction. The public advocacy and information provided by these organisations is vital for the general public to understand the long term effects of human activities on our natural assets such as the Great Barrier Reef and groundwater.

Administration Reforms

I support the discussion paper proposals that would streamline and simplify reporting and administrative burdens for DGR recipient organizations under the REO and ACNC. The varying definitions of responsible persons under the REO and ACNC registers is very confusing and difficult to administer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Green".

Jill Green
President