

Tax Deductible Gift Recipient Reform Opportunities

Due to just becoming aware of this reform paper late today, comment will be limited to the following:

1. Should additional information on advocacy activities be required?

Yes! Many “environmental” charities in Australia use their protection under Section 45DD (3) of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 to attack legally operating businesses and markets. Section 45DD must be amended to remove the protection regularly abused by environmental charities. Details on environmentally beneficial work undertaken by the charity should be reported.

2. Should administration of the DGR Registers be transferred to the ATO?

Yes! The registers should be transferred to an organisation that have staff trained to forensically investigate at least one environmental charity each year to ensure all funds are be legally allocated and not laundered to other activist organisations that do not have charitable status. Checks should also be made to ensure donations are not used to fund unlawful protests.

<http://www.openaustralia.org.au/debates/?id=2014-06-19.167.1&s=speaker%3A10726#g167.2>

3. Should there be a general five year sunset rule for DGRs?

Yes! The current set and forget situation is allowing registered charities to avoid sufficient scrutiny to ensure they comply with basic charity registration and financial reporting requirements.

<http://southeasttimberassociation.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/MyEnvironment-Debt-the-Victorian-Forest-Industry-Taskforce.pdf>

In the past, registered charities have had employees charged with and convicted of criminal offences, without there being any review on whether these offences should impact on the organisation’s charitable registration. Details available on request.

4. Should environmental DGRs use at least 25 per cent of annual expenditure for environmental remediation?

Yes! Using charitable funds to make costumes for rallies and producing advertisements containing false and misleading material would be better spent on specific remediation projects such as feral predator control.

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