



The Bob Brown Foundation is working to protect the living ecosystems, rare and endangered species and cultural heritage of the Tarkine wilderness in Tasmania

Photo by Rob Blakers: Harman River wilderness, Tarkine, Tasmania

To:
Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
environment.reps@aph.gov.au

Submission to the inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations
15 May 2015

Scientific assessment in 2015 is that the number of human beings, which was 2 billions a century ago, is now 7.4 billions. This herd of large mammals will increase to between 9 and 12 billions by 2100, and

- We 7.4 billions are already consuming more of Earth's living resources than the biosphere can replace – hence the stock of Earth's fisheries, forests and biodiversity is less every day than ever before in human history.
- It is a reasonable expectation that other Earthians catch up with Australians in consumption of the planet's finite resources. An important further expectation is for a moderate 2-3 per cent growth rate per annum in the consumption of those resources. Given these parameters, the demand by 2100 will be much more than twice the resource base of this planet. No other living planet is

available.

- Australia is the richest country, in terms of natural resources, on Earth. It follows that Australia faces a greater loss of natural habitat and ecosystems than other countries as pressure to exploit those resources grows.
- Most Australians want biodiversity (the number and variety of species and ecosystems) protected and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (Howard government, 1999) is framed specifically to achieve this popular aim. The Bob Brown Foundation works to emulate this same aim.
- Australia's 600 environment groups with tax-deductibility range in their pursuits from working to protect threatened species and ecosystems to repairing damaged places to ameliorating threatening or destructive processes such as climate change, pollution and invading species.
- No offset, remediation or tree replacement scheme can match protection of existing natural ecosystems in environmental effectiveness or excellence of outcome.
- The 7.4 billion of us depend on the health of our biosphere. Environmentalists work to maximise that health, and are crucial to it.
- Environmentalists are committed to upholding the laws of nature and society. The world is dependent upon the former for life, the latter for order and upon both for hope in the future.
- Disputation about the upholding of natural and societal laws is one of the compelling issues of our age and will continue to be so. Non-violence and public debate is essential to resolving that disputation and guaranteeing human life on Earth.
- Little human progress, including emancipation of slaves, enfranchisement of women or universal education has come without non-violent protest including, at times, the apprehension of campaigners.
- On the other hand, individuals and corporations involved in exploiting the environmental commons, though advantaged by greater influence in making laws have been known to break such laws.
- Non-profit organisations should have no more restriction on their democratic rights, including that of political advocacy, and that of tax deductibility, than profit organisations, lobbyists or political parties.
- Transparency of non-profit organisations should be no more onerous than that of profit organisations, lobbyists or political parties. There is a priority need for transparency and expedition in the processing of applications for tax-deductibility for non-profit organisations. Tax-deductibility for profit organisations is automatic.
- Tax-deductibility for environmentally damaging corporations costs the Australian people much more than tax-deductibility for environmentally protective organisations.
- Law enforcement should be left to law enforcement agencies.
- The Bob Brown Foundation is committed to protecting the biosphere. It is a modestly successful fundraiser because it works within the expectations of modern environmentally-minded Australia. It seeks and promotes prudent and feasible options to the destruction of the nation's natural heritage. And it will continue to campaign to protect Australia's natural commons from irretrievable and needless loss.

Bob Brown.

Chair

Bob Brown Foundation.

THE BOB BROWN FOUNDATION INC

LEVEL 4 / 116 BATHURST ST HOBART : PO BOX 4586 HOBART 7000

CONTACT@BOBBROWN.ORG.AU

WWW.BOBBROWN.ORG.AU