

17/05/2015
Tarah Medcalf

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
By email to: environment.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee,

Submission to the Inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. My submission to the Committee addressing the Terms of Reference is below.

My name is Tarah Medcalf and I own and operate a small business in Bowen. Our business and family has been destroyed by these green groups attacking our livelihoods. I am a farmer's daughter and I have felt the pressure that they have unfairly inflicted on the people on the land as well.

I don't believe that these groups have Australia's future as a priority. I am worried that they are using their tax deductible status as a massive money making racket that is in turn destroying small business in Australia.

The groups are raising millions of dollars in tax free revenue under the guise of 'saving the environment' yet they are spending only a small percentage of their profit. This money that they do spend is going towards advertising and other social media campaigns that are destroying Australian import and export opportunities. I have not seen any of their profits go directly towards the improvement of Australia's environment. The advertising and campaigns that they lead are also false and are misleading the public. This dishonest behaviour is reprehensible and a direct threat to our national economy.

Terms of Reference:

- the definition of 'environmental organisation' under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, including under Subdivision 30-E;
- the requirements to be met by an organisation to be listed on the Register and maintain its listing;
- activities undertaken by organisations currently listed on the Register and the extent to which these activities involve on-ground environmental works; *Court cases, legal costs, dishonest campaigns and advertising should not be funded by tax deductible donations.*
- reporting requirements for organisations to disclose donations and activities funded by donations; *All information should be available for all donations and their origins and also where the money has been spent.*
- the administration of the Register and potential efficiency improvements;
- compliance arrangements and the measures available to the Department of the Environment and the Australian Taxation Office to investigate breaches of the Act and Ministerial Guidelines by listed organisations; and
- relevant governance arrangements in international jurisdictions, and exploring methods to adopt best practice in Australia

I am not familiar with the terms of reference above but I do believe that the environmental groups should be subject strict requirements with regards to reporting and transparency. I also believe that due to the massive revenue that these organisations are making that they should contribute to our taxation system. They are making more than most businesses in Australia...they should contribute to our roads and infrastructure like all responsible citizens. The wages and income of the employees and organisational management should be open to the public as well.

Yours sincerely

Tarah Medcalf