



Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

P.O Box 989, Lane Cove NSW 1595

ABN 50 518 833 556

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Australian House of Representatives Standing Committee
On the Environment

Environment.repo@aph.gov.au

The Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society has been in existence for 44 years, advocating for our local and the wider environment for the whole of that time. We have over 150 local members. Whilst we do not come under the terms of the above enquiry into the Register of Environmental Groups, we are members of peak bodies that will be affected by any adverse outcomes from the deliberations of the Committee, so that it is on their behalf that we are writing this submission.

The environment is essential to all living creatures on earth, including people. Without clean water, clean air, viable agricultural land, a society free of pollution we would not be able to exist. Environmental advocacy over the years has saved us from many dangers and wrong decisions which could have had devastating effect on the way we live. Advocacy has also protected iconic areas of our land and sea such as the Great Barrier Reef, the Franklin River, better water management of the Murray Darling basin, cleaning up air pollution from industry.

This advocacy may have trodden on a few toes along the way may, have required Governments to go back to the drawing board to achieve better outcomes, but they have been worth it in the protection of our environment.

All environmental advocacy organisations are “not for profit” organisations, relying for much of their work on volunteers but also needing to pay employees for research and for organizing campaigns. No money is returned to individuals or others as purely profit.

The organisations are an essential part of our society and should be able to carry out their core objectives in the best way possible. To do this they need to encourage donations from people who should be able to gain some small benefit via a tax deduction for their support of the environment through these donations.

Please do not revoke the ability of these not for profit organisations to be able to offer a tax deductible status to people who donate to them on behalf of the environment which cannot advocate for itself.

Doug Stuart for the Committee,
Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society Inc