



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

PO Box 6021, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 | Phone: (02) 6277 4580 | Fax: (02) 6277 4424
| Email: environment.reps@aph.gov.au | www.aph.gov.au/Environment

31 March 2015

Organisations listed on the Register of
Environmental Organisations

By email sent via the Department of the Environment

Dear Sir/Madam

NEW INQUIRY INTO THE REGISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment has commenced a new inquiry into the administration, transparency and effectiveness of the Register of Environmental Organisations (the Register) in supporting communities to improve the environment.

As an organisation currently listed on the Register, the Committee particularly welcomes your views on any or all of the attached terms of reference. The Committee considers this an important opportunity for your organisation to provide feedback on your experiences of the operation of the Register, and to inform the Committee of how your listing on the Register facilitates the environmental work you do, including the details of any projects currently being carried out. You are also welcome to extend this invitation to any other individual or organisation who may wish to prepare a submission for the Committee's consideration.

Submissions should be sent to the Committee by **Thursday, 21 May 2015**. It is preferred that submissions are uploaded electronically, via: www.aph.gov.au/Committee/Submissions. Should you experience any difficulties with this or require any assistance, please contact the secretariat by email at environment.reps@aph.gov.au or by telephone on (02) 6277 4580.

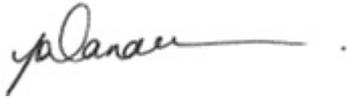
Please note that making a submission constitutes giving evidence and attracts parliamentary privilege. Once you have provided a submission to the Committee you cannot withdraw it or alter it without the Committee's permission. A submission should not be disclosed to any other person until its publication has been authorised by the Committee. When a submission has been formally authorised it will be published on the inquiry's website.

Guidelines on making a submission and contributing to a parliamentary inquiry – including details about parliamentary privilege and requests for confidentiality – are available online: www.aph.gov.au/MakeSubmission.

Further information about the inquiry and its conduct, including details of any scheduled public hearings, will be published on the inquiry web page: www.aph.gov.au/reo. Information about the Committee, including its membership and other activities, is available on the Committee website: www.aph.gov.au/environment.

Should you have any questions about the inquiry or anything contained in this letter, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peggy Danaee', followed by a horizontal line and a period.

Peggy Danaee
A/g Committee Secretary



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

PO Box 6021, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 | Phone: (02) 6277 4580 | Fax: (02) 6277 4424
| Email: environment.reps@aph.gov.au | www.aph.gov.au/Environment

Inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment will inquire into and report on the administration and transparency of the Register of Environmental Organisations (the Register) and its effectiveness in supporting communities to take practical action to improve the environment, with particular regard to:

- 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;
- reporting requirements for organisations to disclose donations and activities funded by donations;
- 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.

Adopted 26 March 2015