



# **The Goulburn Valley Environment Group Inc.**

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## **House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment**

### **Register of Environmental Organisations Inquiry**

The Goulburn Valley Environment Group (GVEG) has for over 25 years been the focus of environmental awareness and protection in northern Victoria's Goulburn Valley.

We strongly support the eligibility of Environment Groups for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

Being a registered DGR allows an organization to access tax-deductible donations to fund important, practical work to protect and improve the natural environment and fulfil a critical role in the community. Being a smaller environment group and relying entirely on volunteerism, we rely on larger environmental DGR's who have the necessary staff, expertise and resources to assist us.

GVEG provides a significant service to our local and broader community by representing environmental interests on a myriad of State and Federal government, Local Government, and Regional Catchment Management Authority committees. This poorly understood service to governance and informing policy development is provided entirely by our members on a voluntary basis.

We understand these representations and other undertakings inevitably involves advocacy and at times opposition to ill-conceived developments however point out that DGR is the equivalent to the tax deductibility status of memberships and contributions to all industry organisations. GVEG considers it ironic that it's many of these same industries that benefit from taxpayer support who seek to strip environmental groups of DGR status.

Please ensure the current DGR status of environment groups remains and allow the continuation of our important role of protecting the environment.

**Terry Court**

**GVEG Vice President**