



Australian Government



Australian  
**Charities** and  
Not-for-profits  
Commission

15 July 2015

Our ref: EXT2015/55

Mr Alex Hawke MP  
Chair  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment  
Parliament of Australia  
PO Box 6021  
Canberra ACT 2600

**By email:** [environment.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:environment.reps@aph.gov.au)

Dear Mr Hawke

**Response to matters taken on notice: Hearing of Inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations**

I write to respond to several matters that I and other representatives of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) took on notice at the Committee's hearing on 18 June 2015.

**Copies of ACNC compliance report**

I **enclose** 12 hardcopies of the ACNC's *Charity Compliance Report: December 2012 – December 2014 and Beyond*. This publication is also available online at [https://www.acnc.gov.au/ACNC/Publications/Reports/ComplianceRpt2012\\_2014.aspx](https://www.acnc.gov.au/ACNC/Publications/Reports/ComplianceRpt2012_2014.aspx).

**Environmental charities registered or refused registration**

645 charities are currently registered with the ACNC with the purpose (subtype) of advancing the natural environment. Many of these were registered with the Australian Taxation Office then transferred to the ACNC upon our commencement.

To date, 49 applications for registration as a charity with the purpose of advancing the natural environment have either been declined or withdrawn. In these cases, applicants have been informed that they did not meet the required criteria.



**Greenpeace activity involving genetically modified crops**

I note that this incident occurred on 14 July 2011, prior to the commencement of the ACNC's operation, and is therefore outside our jurisdiction.

We are prepared to elaborate further on any issues should it assist the committee.

Yours sincerely

**Susan Pascoe AM**  
**Commissioner**

Direct:  
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