

Principal Advisor
Individuals and Indirect Tax Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Sir or Madam

Unfortunately I was unable to access the TOR from your website. Nevertheless I wish to address one specific issue that will be of interest to the review.

Charities are formed for a specific charitable purpose as set out in their articles of association/constitution or other founding documents. Charities should not be allowed to act outside of their founding remit without altering their formal charitable purpose following due process. Charitable organisations that lend support to social or political causes that are outside of their founding purpose mislead supporters and donors, and are less able to further those causes for which they obtain tax exempt status. This behaviour, if not already a statutory breach, should be. Furthermore repeated breaches should trigger an automatic review of the organisation's tax exempt status.

The following is a case-in-point. I was for almost ten years an activist with The Wilderness Society which is partly headquartered at 130 Davey St, Hobart. The organisation was formed to further the cause of wilderness preservation in Australia and rose to fame through its campaign to save the Franklin river from flooding for hydro-electric development. It was the narrow focus of the organisation that made it effective. I was on the organisation's 'arrest list' meaning I was available to blockade logging works at any time, and I was a trainer with the organisation.

Recently the organisation took sides in the same sex marriage campaign with a massive banner that covered most of the front of the two story building at 130 Davey St. I have a degree in environmental studies but I have yet to find a policy connection between wilderness preservation and sodomy promotion.

Today I received an invitation from activist organisation GetUp! to attend activist training on TWS premises. Whether or not TWS is providing the training I don't know but I suspect they are. GetUp! campaigns on a diverse raft of issues many of which have no connection to environmental causes. These include for example, labour rights, Indigenous rights, promoting an open border immigration policy, and promoting same sex marriage.

It is entirely inappropriate that an organisation whose sole remit is the preservation of Australian wilderness should use its tax exempt status to support a far left social activist group.

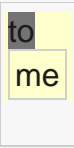
GetUp! seeks to harness the energies of any vaguely 'progressive' group in the country and I believe this should be of interest to the review and subject to investigation by the ACNC. I similarly believe that the activities of TWS in relation to GetUp! should be subject to review by the ACNC.

Yours sincerely

Erik Peacock
144 Berriedale Road
Berriedale Tas 7011

GetUp! <info@getup.org.au> [Unsubscribe](#)

17:16 (21 hours ago)



Dear Erik,

Are you shocked by our government's recent attacks on civil society? Frustrated by Australia's treatment of refugees? Want to see real action to address climate change?

This is your invitation to get involved with GetUp Hobart to take deeper action on the issues you care about.

GetUp Hobart is a local group of GetUp members who meet regularly and take action together on important issues to ensure local voices aren't just heard, but that they make a real difference. And they are looking for new people to join them!

GetUp Hobart is one of 40 local GetUp Action Groups around the country working together to take back people power. It's an ambitious network of volunteers who have already had a huge impact in the recent Queensland state election by calling into marginal electorates to have meaningful conversations with voters about protecting the Great Barrier Reef and other critical issues.

Sound interesting?

[Come along to the GetUp Hobart Workshop Day this Saturday February 24 to take part in practical skills workshops and get to know the GetUp Hobart Group.](#)

What: GetUp Hobart Workshop Day

When: **10am-12.30pm**: Introduction to GetUp Hobart and Training; **1.30-5pm** Strategy Planning (optional)

Date: **Saturday 24 February**

Where: The Wilderness Society, [130 Davey Street, Hobart](#)

Who: Invite anyone you'd like to join you!

This training is hosted by GetUp Hobart and facilitated by me, Vicky Fysh, GetUp's Victorian and Tasmanian Community Organiser!

RSVP here to secure your spot!

By coming along this **Saturday 24 February**, you'll be trained in GetUp's core Powerful Conversations training module. You'll hear how one-to-one conversations are the backbone of a successful campaign – whether that's through door-knocking, stalls, phone calls, or with family and friends. You'll learn how to engage with people's values and concerns, shift their perspective and move them to action.

Being part of the Hobart Action Group means meeting like-minded people, gaining new skills in

social change, and working together in a collective to make a difference on the issues you care about.

Are you ready to join? [Click here to sign up to this Saturday's training and meet the group!](#)

See you in Hobart!

Vicky, for the GetUp Team

PS Interested in getting involved but can't make **February 24**? Come along to the Duke of Wellington Hotel from 5.30pm on **February 23** to meet me and the team. [RSVP here.](#)