

Committee Secretary  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Via email: [environment.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:environment.reps@aph.gov.au)

16 May 2015

## **Submission**

### **Inquiry into the administration and transparency of the Register of Environmental Organisations and its effectiveness in supporting communities to take practical action to improve the environment.**

Environment East Gippsland is a volunteer organisation and has been working to protect the environment of this region since 1983. We have a membership of over 350 and a supporter base of over 1,000 who are from both Gippsland as well as other areas of rural and regional Australia. About half of this number resides in Gippsland.

Our group aims to:

- promote the conservation values and environmental awareness about East Gippsland,
- promote sustainability in environmental, economic and social terms,
- make representation to Government re land use and management,
- undertake research relevant to the above,
- participate in government processes.

Our group identifies rare or threatened flora and fauna and ensures that protection measures for their survival are being adhered to. We produce newsletters, articles, and other written information about the East Gippsland environment and the need to protect it. This information is published in newspapers, newsletters and our website. We make submissions to Government in relation to the protection of the environment and responded to Government invitations, at both State and Commonwealth level, to comment on environment-related matters. We have been represented on Committees established by Government concerned with the environment including the Regional Forest Agreement Consultative Committee, and the Far East Gippsland Round Table Forum on fire. We also conduct guided walking tours and ecology camps in East Gippsland to educate the public about our forests and wildlife.

We educate our members about the natural wonders of this region and the need to protect our forests and wildlife. We encourage our members and supporters to advocate for their protection. We believe that the public love of our environment needs little encouragement and their appreciation of and advocacy for this region has benefited the protection of rare wildlife here. Without our supporters and their passion for the environment, we believe East Gippsland would not have the profile it does now as a natural wonderland, and that many areas of valuable habitat might not still be existing.

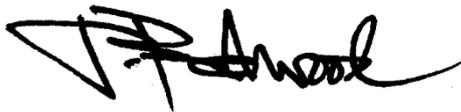
EEG is on the Register of Environmental Organisations and we raise about [REDACTED] a year through tax deductible donations. We rely on this to fund our work.

Our members and supporters are fully informed of our activities, our ecology camps and other news throughout the year via our newsletter, *The Potoroo Review*, our e-bulletins, facebook page, twitter and the EEG website. Our work is fully open to public scrutiny.

We would be very concerned if the Committee proposes making the administration of the Register more complex, or limiting our work or advocacy for the environment.

We would be pleased to provide any further information if needed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Redwood', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jill Redwood  
Coordinator

\* *CONFIDENTIAL – Please do not publish this on your site*