



Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment
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Submission to the 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.


The Mosman Parks & Bushland Association was founded in 1964 when bushland at Bradleys Head was threatened with destruction. We are proud to number Eileen and Joan Bradley, originators of the Bradley method of Bush Regeneration among our founding members. The objectives of the Association remain the same today - the protection and preservation of parks, bushland and open space in the municipality of Mosman. Members of the Association work practically in bush regeneration, and when bushland and open space are threatened by development or by changes to local, state or federal laws or conditions, the Association advocates for their continued preservation. The benefit is for current and future generations of residents and visitors to Mosman.

This Association is not on the Register of Environmental Organisations as it has not, to date, had sufficient need for funds to apply for tax deductibility status. All of the work done is by members of the Association and is voluntary. Our expenses are usually met from membership subscriptions.

However, we have in the past received advice from organisations with greater expertise and knowledge of laws and their administration - local, state and federal. Such organisations as the Nature Conservation Council, the Total Environment Centre, the National Trust, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Environmental Defenders' Office are some of the organisations whose research, legal and scientific knowledge have been helpful. This level of expertise cannot be met by volunteers. These organisations need qualified and paid employees if they are to continue to educate and advise associations such as ours.

The Mosman Parks & Bushland Association is concerned that without tax deductible status or with restrictions to their powers of advocacy and education, the many organisations working for the environment in Australia will find it more difficult to fulfil their objectives of protecting the environment for the benefit of present and future generations of Australians.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.


Kate Eccles

President

21st May, 2015