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24 June 2014

Capricorn Conservation Council has contacted Federal MP for Dawson Mr Christensen over his statement that CCC and like groups should have their charitable status removed.

Michael McCabe CCC coordinator said, "Since 1973 CCC has performed an important role in providing community conservation education. Our work is mainly through volunteers and our engagement covers schools, general community, industry and government."

"Our Charitable Trust is managed by Trustees and is devoted exclusively to environmental education and research. Examples of our reported and planned activities using the tax deductible trust funds are; Broadsound shorebird survey, booklet on natural history of Great Keppel Island, CQ Biodiversity Education project."

"CCC also hosts community activities and facilitate grants for freshwater turtle research, beach clean-ups, creek restoration, school education programs and community development activities to re-engage the wider public in Central Queensland's wonderful natural heritage."

"CCC participates in numerous community, government and industry forums. These include:

- Shoalwater Bay Training Area Environmental Advisory Committee
- Fitzroy Water Quality Advisory Group (EHP/DNRM)
- Fitzroy Partnership for River Health
- Capricorn Coast Local marine Advisory Committee (GBRMPA)
- Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership
- Environment and Heritage Protection Ministerial Roundtable
- Central Queensland Mine Rehabilitation Group
- numerous local government fora e.g. Wild Dog/Pest management groups
- membership of regional Natural Resource Management groups
- project and EIS panels and consultative meetings and reports for coal, coal seam gas projects, dam and weirs proposals, statutory plans and water quality guidelines plus
- numerous submissions and deputations to Federal and State parliamentary/senate committees."

"CCC has always met ATO and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) requirements for reporting and ensuring expenditure is for community benefit. We are puzzled about the claim that Mr Christensen has named CCC as a group which should have its charitable status removed."

"Volunteerism is in general decline in our communities so it is essential that our elected representatives do their utmost to support and not attack not-for-profit groups. If Mr Christensen has a concern about the activities of CCC I invite him to contact me or our Management Committee."

"If he is concerned about our compliance the appropriate and courteous thing to do as a democratically elected representative would be to raise the matter with me personally before making accusations in the media."

ENDS

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Media contact: Michael McCabe Coordinator