

Stewart Basin

wild river declaration consultation report 2009

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Foreword

This report has been prepared to summarise the issues raised during the community consultation process, which includes the formal submission process, which supported development of the wild rivers declaration for Stewart Basin Wild River Declaration 2009 and the government's response to these issues.

While the involvement of representative stakeholders provided essential checks and balances throughout the process, the public consultation process on the declaration proposal allowed for scrutiny of the provisions at the broadest level.

Declaring the Stewart Basin as a wild river area is an important step in preserving the natural values of the State's unique wild rivers, which have largely been untouched by development, and are a vital part of our natural heritage. The declaration provides a framework for preserving these natural values in a way that balances the needs of a wide range of stakeholders.

Although the intent of the declaration is to preserve the natural values of a wild river area, economic development can still occur in a wild river area. Existing developments and activities are not impacted by a wild river declaration, and most new economic development activities can occur as long as they are undertaken in such a way so they do not adversely impact on the natural values the declaration is aiming to preserve.

Activities such as mining, grazing, fishing, eco-tourism, outstation development and indigenous cultural activities can all still occur and the published declaration explains how and where such work can occur.

For example, within a High Preservation Area (HPA) of a wild river basin—which is the area immediately adjoining a river—there are no constraints on grazing activities. Similarly, the construction and maintenance of outstations, roads and facilities for tourism are also not prohibited in the HPA. However, developments such as intensive agriculture, animal husbandry, in-stream dams and weirs, surface mining and aquaculture are restricted in the most sensitive areas.

Native title and traditional activities, such as camping, hunting, fishing, use of fish traps, collecting bush foods and medicines, conducting ceremonial activities, manufacture of traditional artefacts and traditional fire management are also not impacted by a wild river declaration.

In support of the economic and social aspirations of Indigenous communities, a wild river declaration ensures that a reserve of water is also available to Indigenous communities in the declared wild river area.

I would like to thank all of the groups and individuals who participated in the consultation process. The feedback received on the declaration proposal for the area played a valuable part in the development of the final declaration.

Through this wild river declaration the Queensland Government is ensuring that these rivers are preserved for all to enjoy, now and in the future.

Stephen Robertson

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this report

This report has been prepared by the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to summarise the issues raised during the consultation process for the Stewart Basin wild river declaration proposal. It also details how these issues have been dealt with in the declaration document. The report is a requirement of Section 38 of the *Wild Rivers Act 2005* (the Wild Rivers Act). The Stewart Basin Wild River Area was declared on 3 April 2009.

This report incorporates:

- a background discussion on the intent of the declaration and declaration process
- a summary of issues that were raised during the consultation process
- analyses of the issues raised, and
- how the issues have been dealt with.

The report also addresses a number of issues raised during consultation that may not be specific to the Stewart Basin. These have been included in this report to provide a broader perspective of issues that were raised during consultation in the Archer, Lockhart and Stewart Basin areas.

1.2 Intent of the declaration

The intent of the declaration is to preserve the natural values of the wild rivers in the Stewart Basin Wild River Area. This is consistent with the Wild Rivers Act which provides a framework to preserve Queensland rivers that have all, or almost all, of their natural values intact. Natural values are those ecological functions most important for maintaining the integrity of natural riverine processes.

Under the Wild Rivers Act the Minister can propose any part of Queensland for consideration as a wild river area. A wild river area includes the wild river/s as well as their catchments.

A wild river area is declared through approval of a wild river declaration.

A wild river declaration is a statutory instrument that describes:

- the wild river area
- any wild river requirements
- in what circumstances parts of the Wild Rivers Code or other development assessment codes apply.

Once a wild river area is declared, requirements of existing legislation specific to wild river areas will apply. However under the Wild Rivers Act, authorisations in place at the time of a wild river declaration are not subject to any wild river requirements.

The wild river declaration sets out certain management areas. The declaration imposes the most stringent requirements within the areas closest to the wild rivers, major tributaries and those hydrologically connected features that play an important role in preserving the wild rivers natural values. This area is termed the 'high preservation area'. Outside the high

preservation area, in the remainder of the catchment, termed the 'preservation area', development activities are required to comply with conditions set out in the declaration. These conditions include adherence to the requirements of the Wild Rivers Code (the Code).

The Code provides required outcomes that development must meet to be approved. These required outcomes minimise impacts on the wild rivers that could otherwise result from development activities in the catchment.

The declaration continues to allow for development to occur in wild river areas with few impediments to essential and low level developments that are unlikely to impact on the natural values of the wild rivers.

1.3 The declaration process

The Wild Rivers Act includes details of the process that must be followed for the proposal, and declaration of a wild river area. The components of this process, as applied to the Stewart Basin Wild River Area, are described below:

- Assessment of the natural values in the Stewart Basin was undertaken.
- Preliminary consultation with draft declaration management areas commenced in June 2008.
- The Minister published a notice of intent to declare, and declaration proposal notice, in state-wide and local papers on 23 and 24 July 2008.
- The Stewart Basin wild river declaration proposal was released for public comment on 23 July 2008, and submissions on the proposal invited.
- A moratorium applicable to mining, native vegetation clearing and water related development was released for the proposed wild river area on 24 July 2008.
- Consultation on the declaration proposal commenced 23 July 2008.
- The submission period closed on 21 November 2008.
- The Minister considered submissions and the results of consultation.
- Public release of declaration on 3 April 2009.

1.4 Consultation program

An extensive consultation program was undertaken by Department of Environment and Resource Management officers to inform the community about the content of the declaration proposal. The consultation program aimed to seek community feedback on the declaration proposal and how this may affect the economic and environmental aspirations of people for the area.

An overview report, released in conjunction with the declaration proposal, was produced to promote an understanding of the implications of the wild rivers declaration proposal.

The consultation program involved a range of approaches, including:

- publication of the Cape York Peninsula Amendment Moratorium Notice, Notice of Intent and Declaration Proposal Notice in State and local newspapers including the Courier Mail, Cairns Post, Western Cape Bulletin, North Queensland Register and Cooktown Local News
- mail out of 55 information kits with fact sheets on wild rivers to peak bodies and stakeholder groups in June 2008

- mail out of 63 letters containing the declaration proposal and overview reports to all landholders within the basin, as well as to local governments, land trusts, mining tenement holders, industry representatives, community groups and peak body representatives
- on-ground face-to-face consultation meetings
- phone calls seeking feedback from key stakeholders who were unable to physically attend consultation meetings
- attendance at local government and community meetings
- attendance at meetings aligned with other state government agencies
- development of material for the Department of Environment and Resource Management website, which included fact sheets, electronic versions of the declaration proposal and overview report, submission forms and electronic submission lodgement through the website
- public airtime on Imparja TV of Wild Rivers DVD and Murri Minutes (produced by Bush TV), covering general information about wild rivers
- water report article on wild rivers published in the Rural Weekly, Torres News, Western Cape Bulletin and Cooktown Local News
- informal meetings
- responding to ongoing phone enquiries.

On-ground face-to-face consultation meetings with individuals, and larger group meetings, were held with a range of stakeholders. These included local governments, graziers, mining companies, tourism operators, conservation and environmental groups, land trusts representatives, traditional owners, commercial and business operators, development and representative bodies, community organisations, recreational fishers and tourists.

Communities visited throughout Cape York Peninsula during the consultation phase of the three declaration proposals included Aurukun, Lockhart River, Coen, Cooktown, Weipa, Napranum, Mapoon, Port Stewart and Portland Roads. In many cases consultation meetings required repeat visits to ensure the information disseminated was clear, and stakeholders had an opportunity to seek further clarification on any issues.

The department had an arrangement with Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation to assist in identifying traditional owners that speak for particular country or key Indigenous representatives with whom to consult. They were also to assist in arranging consultation meetings.

Additionally, state government representatives, with interests in the declaration proposal, were also invited to participate in meetings to foster a whole-of-government approach.

1.5 Submission and consultation review process

The Minister considered the results of community consultation and all submissions about the declaration proposal before finalising the declaration. In the consultation phase, a number of face-to-face meetings were held with stakeholders, and views on the declaration proposals were recorded for later analyses and ongoing discussion, or clarification. A total of 3605 submissions were received on the Stewart Basin wild river declaration proposal.

All issues raised during consultation, as well as those raised in submissions, were recorded, validated and categorised. Chapter 2 summarises the issues that were raised, an analyses of

the issues and how the issues were dealt with. It must be noted that submissions were not considered purely on the basis of the number supporting a declaration versus the number that were opposed or otherwise.

1.6 Where to obtain a copy of the declaration

The declaration is available for viewing, or download, from the department's website <www.derm.qld.gov.au>.

Alternatively, please contact the wild river coordinators to obtain a CD or hard copy by phoning 13 13 04 or by emailing <wild.rivers@derm.qld.gov.au>.

2. Issues raised during consultation and in submissions

2.1 Declaration specific issues

2.1.1 Water reserves

Issues raised

1. Consideration of climate change impacts on the rivers
2. The “1 per cent rule” for unallocated water volumes
3. Unallocated water for mining operations

Issues analysis

1. Consideration of climate change impacts on the rivers

Issue:

- *Climate change-related impacts to declared rivers must be considered when determining the overall declaration, and particularly in regard to any future water allocations.*

Response:

In order to preserve the wild river’s natural values, limited water is made available for use. In the Stewart Basin Wild River Area, the total amount of water available as unallocated water is 5000 ML. Because a small volume of water is available for use (relative to mean annual flow of the rivers in the area) and through the adoption of a precautionary approach, climate change is not expected to have a major impact on the allocation of water.

Limiting development and water extraction in a wild river area to preserve natural values will also ensure that these values can adapt over time to climate change with minimal interference by human-based activities.

2. The “1 per cent rule” for unallocated water volumes

Issue:

- *The amount of the unallocated water reserves proposed for each basin does not appear to be based on the 1 per cent rule or any process of analysis.*

Response:

The “1 per cent rule” is a policy position used to determine the maximum volume of water that can be made available for allocation from within a wild river area while preserving the wild river’s natural values. The volumes of the unallocated water reserves still allow for future development to occur within a wild river area whilst keeping the total volume of water taken below 1 per cent of the mean annual flow.

The declaration proposal included the following unallocated water reserves:

- Indigenous reserve—4000 ML
- Strategic reserve—800 ML
- General reserve—200 ML

The total volume of the reserves and existing entitlements represents less than 0.5 per cent of the mean annual flow.

The potential for future town water supply needs, ecotourism development, development opportunities for Indigenous communities and traditional owners and some agricultural development and mining were all considered when determining these volumes.

Should further demand for water be identified where the total volume of water that can be taken is not yet at 1 per cent of the mean annual flow, increasing the volumes of the reserves may be considered in the future, although this would require an amendment to the wild river declaration.

3. Unallocated water for mining operations

Issue:

- *The proposed volume of unallocated water is that required to develop a single mining operation. The wild river declaration will restrict availability of that water supply and is an unrealistic imposition on future mining development opportunities.*

Response:

Mining operations can access water from the general reserve or if the operation is a project of state significance, or project of regional significance, the strategic reserve. Whilst recognising that mining can continue in a wild river area, the natural values must be preserved and so the volumes available for consumptive use will be limited.

Mining companies and other development interests are encouraged to look at more efficient ways of using available water and look at opportunities for using recycled water, rainwater harvesting or other alternative sources.

The capture of overland flow water is also an option that could be considered. Whilst it is prohibited in a high preservation area for mining, in a floodplain management area it is permitted provided the requirements of the Wild Rivers Code are met.

Final declaration

No changes from the proposed declaration were considered necessary upon evaluation of the issues in relation to water reserves.

2.1.2 Regulation of overland flow water

Issues raised

1. Overland flow volumes should be included in the unallocated water reserves
2. Off-stream dams other than for stock or domestic purposes

Issues analysis

1. Overland flow volumes should be included in the unallocated water reserves

Issue:

- *The proposed water reserves in the declaration proposals should include water extracted by overland flow works.*

Response:

The taking of overland flow is managed by regulating the size and location of works. This in turn limits the volume of overland flow water that can be captured and minimises the impacts on overland flow paths in the wild river area.

There is currently little or no take of overland flow water in the wild river area and with little identified demand to take overland flow water, the risk to hydrologic values is low. Therefore, it is not considered necessary at this stage to require the take of overland flow to be licensed or included in the unallocated water reserves.

The department will however monitor overland flow related developments in the wild river area to determine if further management is required.

2. Off-stream dams other than for stock or domestic purposes

Issue:

- *Off-stream dams should be allowed in a high preservation area for purposes other than stock or domestic.*

Response:

In a high preservation area, works that take overland flow water are limited to stock or domestic works only as the natural values of the wild rivers are most sensitive to impacts in the areas closest to the wild rivers and major tributaries. This is important in preserving hydrological processes in the area closest to the rivers themselves.

It is also consistent with the right to take overland flow water for stock or domestic purposes as exists under the regulation of the *Water Act 2000* (Water Act).

In a floodplain management area, off-stream dams that are used for storing water taken from a watercourse, lake or spring or aquifer (ring tanks or turkeys nests) are able to be constructed and must meet the requirements of the Wild Rivers Code.

Works that take overland flow water in either the high preservation area or floodplain management area are self assessable if they comply with Part 6A of the Wild Rivers Code, and are for stock or domestic purposes. In the high preservation area stock or domestic works that do not meet Part 6A of the Code are assessable development and must comply with Part 6B of the Wild Rivers Code. Outside of the high preservation area, and inside the floodplain management area all other works, or stock or domestic works that do not meet Part 6A, are assessable development and must comply with Part 6B of the Wild Rivers Code.

Final declaration

No changes from the proposed declaration were considered necessary in relation to the regulation of overland flow.

2.1.3 Water licence conditions

Issues raised

1. Water licence conditions
2. Land and Water Management Plans

Issues analysis

1. Water licence conditions

Issue:

- *Specific conditions “similar to those detailed in the Water Resource (Gulf) Plan 2007” should be applied to water licences in a wild river area, including:*
 - *requiring local surveys and plans that detail local conditions and ecological requirements*
 - *strict regulation of water extraction, especially during drier periods of the year, and*
 - *consideration of impacts on cultural and ecological values of watercourses, waterholes, lakes or springs.*

Response:

The purpose of a wild river declaration is to preserve the natural values of the wild rivers. The process for granting a water licence and placing conditions on a water licence must reflect this intent. As such, the declaration proposal specified that in assessing a water licence application in the wild river area, the chief executive must consider the impact that the proposed taking of water may have on the relevant natural values of the wild river area. The relevant natural values include:

- hydrologic processes including the natural flow of water in the wild rivers' catchments and river systems. These processes include hydrological connectivity between the river system, aquifers, off-stream water bodies, adjacent floodplains, and estuaries
- geomorphic processes including the natural erosion, transport and deposition of sediments by water throughout the catchments of the wild rivers and along the river systems to their respective estuaries. Natural geomorphic processes contribute to the physical integrity of the river system, including bed and bank stability as well as channel alignment
- riparian function including a range of processes that occur in, or as a result of, the vegetation growing adjacent to the streams, estuaries, lakes, floodplains and wetlands. This function maintains the physical integrity of bed and banks, provides aquatic habitat, pollution control, food sources for native aquatic and terrestrial fauna and maintains links between in-stream and land-based ecosystems
- wildlife corridor function including areas of natural habitat within and along the river systems to allow native aquatic and terrestrial fauna to safely migrate within their natural ranges
- water quality including the physical, chemical and biological attributes of water in the wild rivers that supports and maintains natural aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

Any conditions on a water licence for the wild river area will reflect the intent to preserve these values, particularly in relation to hydrologic values.

It is also worth noting that the prohibition on licences to interfere with water in a high preservation area removes the risks to the wild rivers of new in-stream dams or weirs. Together with other regulatory mechanisms, this provides additional protection of important hydrological processes.

2. Land and water management plans

Issue:

- *Land and water management plans should be required for all new water licences.*

Response:

Requiring the preparation of a land and water management plan for new water licences in a wild river area would require an amendment to the Water Act. The purpose of land and water management plans is to ensure that irrigation water-use practices are ecologically sustainable, both on- and off-farm. Given the limited development pressures of this type, and the small volumes of water made available for use under the declaration, such a requirement is not seen as necessary at this stage.

Final declaration

No changes to the proposed declaration have been made as the natural values are appropriately considered when deciding and conditioning water licences and land and water management plans are not considered as being necessary.

2.1.4 Designation of management areas

Issues raised

1. Inconsistent approach taken
2. Additional special features
3. Upstream extent and width of the high preservation area
4. Natural values of Breakfast Creek

Issues analysis

1. Inconsistent approach taken

Issue:

- *The approach taken in designating management areas is inconsistent with the approach taken in designating management areas in the six previously declared wild river areas.*

Response:

Four types of management areas were proposed. The most stringent regulation of development occurs in the high preservation area. This area encompasses the wild rivers, major tributaries, special features and an area up to one-kilometre each side of the wild rivers and major tributaries and around the special features. The proposed preservation area covers the remaining wild river area outside of the proposed high preservation area. The floodplain management area includes areas that are subject to flooding and requiring particular rules for managing interference with flood flows, from or to, a wild river, major tributary, special feature or nominated waterway. Subartesian management areas are proposed on a precautionary basis and reflect the need to limit the volume of subartesian water taken in order to maintain watercourse base flows.

The approach taken in mapping special features was consistent with that taken in other declared areas, which were based on utilising the best available information at the time. No special features were identified in the Stewart Basin Wild River Area.

2. Additional special features

Issue:

- *There should be more areas designated as special features—including additional wetlands listed in the Australian Directory of Important Wetlands (DIWA).*

Response:

Wetlands mapped as special features are those with important hydrological linkages with wild rivers and/or major tributaries and play an important role in maintaining a wild river's natural values. Consideration of the inclusion of wetlands listed in DIWA is part of the process in identifying special features for wild river purposes. However, a listing under the DIWA mapping does not specifically rely on consideration of river-wetland linkages. DIWA mapping is broad scale and can include large floodplains, some of which, whilst there may be a hydrological connection, do not play a significant role in preserving the wild river natural values. DIWA wetland mapping forms an important starting point for more detailed analysis. Other tools such as EPA wetland mapping, digital elevation modelling and satellite images are used to refine the extent of these areas and determine connectivity with wild rivers or major tributaries.

Detailed analysis of DIWA features in the Stewart Basin, specifically the Silver Plains–Nesbitt River Aggregation, failed to highlight significant linkages with wild rivers and major tributaries to warrant inclusion as a special feature. The values of these largely marine or estuarine features were considered sufficiently protected through preservation of flood flow contributions via the designated floodplain management area, restrictions on clearing marine plants in a wild river area, restrictions on operational works in a coastal management district, tightened restrictions on development in fish habitat areas in wild river areas, and prohibitions on new quarry allocations from tidal rivers in a wild river area.

3. Extent of high preservation area

Issue:

- *In comparison with the length and coverage of high preservation areas in the existing Gulf of Carpentaria Wild River declarations, there is inadequate protection for some streams likely to be subject to development pressures.*
- *The width of the high preservation areas is taken to the full extent of up to one kilometre each side of the wild river and major tributaries. This is perceived as being arbitrary and not based on science, and smaller streams should require less width of protection.*

Response:

The upstream extents of the high preservation areas are based on the requirement to preserve wild river natural values and generally extend to where a stream becomes more confined and flows from steeper country. The risk to the natural values from development in upper parts of catchments is also considered.

The department, in reviewing the proposed high preservation areas has considered the state of the natural values of the proposed wild rivers and adopted a precautionary approach in determining the width of the high preservation areas. Accordingly it was decided to keep the width of the high preservation areas at one kilometre for the declared wild rivers and major tributaries except for Breakfast Creek – see below. Suggestions that the width of the high preservation areas should be relative to the size of the stream ignore the potential for developments such as mining or agriculture to have greater relative impacts on the waterways.

This approach is consistent with the Gulf of Carpentaria declarations. It was also suggested that a number of streams should be major tributaries and included in the high preservation area—see section 2.1.5.

4. Natural values of Breakfast Creek

Issue:

- *Previous clearing around the Silver Plains area will have impacted on the natural values of Breakfast Creek and therefore it should not be considered a wild river.*

Response:

Further analyses of Breakfast Creek found that the stream as whole retains almost all of its natural values particularly hydrology, the primary driver of riverine systems. Also, suggestions that the width of the high preservation area should be relative to the size of the stream ignore the potential for developments such as mining or agriculture to have greater relative impacts on the waterways. In light of this Breakfast Creek remains a wild river for the Stewart Basin.

However, it was determined to reduce the high preservation area width to 500 metres each side of Breakfast Creek. This reduction reflects:

- that the existing riparian vegetation has been reduced in some areas as a result of historical grazing activities on Silver Plains (though this is not expected to have reduced the natural values over the whole system)
- that given the nature of stated proposed development aspirations on Silver Plains, plus the natural structure of the river and its environment, a risk based approach acknowledges that a 500-metre buffer (high preservation area) still has a high chance of preserving the integrity of the natural values of Breakfast Creek
- a stated desire to progress property development on Silver Plains involving an intensification of grazing activities, ecotourism and horticulture, which aligns with Government commitment to advance Indigenous economic development.

Final declaration

The final declaration was changed to reduce the width of the high preservation area along either side of Breakfast Creek from 1 kilometre to 500 metres. No other changes were made as the approach to designation of management areas is consistent with the Gulf of Carpentaria and other Cape York declarations.

2.1.5 Nominated waterways

Issues raised

1. Nominated waterways mapping
2. Selected nominated waterways should be major tributaries

Issue analysis

1. Nominated waterways mapping

Issue:

- *Nominated waterways should be mapped on the basis of their natural values and hydrological input to wild rivers rather than on an area basis.*

Response:

The Stewart Basin wild river declaration proposal set out the different management areas that would apply if the area was to be declared a wild river area including high preservation areas along major tributaries. The declaration proposal also proposed a number of streams as 'nominated waterways', in or adjacent to which certain wild river requirements would apply.

Major tributaries are selected on the basis that they are larger streams (in terms of their length, flow volume and catchment area) connected to the wild river or its tributaries and/or tributaries that contribute most of the ecologically significant flow or aquatic habitat to the system. Where information exists noting the specific importance of watercourses to the functioning of the river systems (for example, where a stream is known to provide perennial flows to a largely ephemeral system), these streams are included as major tributaries.

Nominated waterways on the other hand are generally those minor tributaries or smaller streams that support the natural values of the wild rivers by providing important hydrological flows or, for example, riparian habitat. Nominated waterways are proposed on the basis of available information in relation to their natural values, including hydrological input. As a general rule of thumb, catchment area is used as an indicator of hydrological input. The selection of nominated waterways ensures management requirements are applied to streams that may not be considered major tributaries, however are likely to provide support for the natural values of the wild rivers.

2. Selected nominated waterways should be major tributaries

Issue:

- *That a number of the streams proposed as nominated waterways should be considered major tributaries and thus become high preservation areas as they are significant waterways. It was suggested that Little Stewart Creek should be a major tributary of the Stewart River.*

Response:

Further analysis was undertaken of Little Stewart Creek as well as the information provided in relation to this stream. As a result, it was determined that it is a larger stream in the catchment, has continuous riparian vegetation and is likely to provide important flows to the Stewart River. As such, Little Stewart Creek was considered to be a major tributary of the Stewart River and was therefore made a part of the high preservation area for the Stewart Basin Wild River Area.

Final declaration

The final declaration includes part of Little Stewart Creek in the high preservation area as a major tributary.

2.1.6 National parks

Issues raised

1. National parks already provide a 'green' outcome
2. National parks should be exempt from proposed declared areas
3. Exclusion of national parks from wild river areas/no high preservation areas in national parks
4. Indigenous management agreements will be impacted

Issues analysis

1. National parks already provide a 'green' outcome
2. National parks should be exempt from proposed declared areas

Issue:

- *The declaration of the McIlwraith Range and Lama Lama National Parks as well as the Running Creek Nature Refuge represents a sufficient green outcome from land tenure negotiations and a wild river declaration is outside of negotiated agreements. Land tenure negotiations did not include incorporation of wild rivers declarations. These negotiations were undertaken on the premise that the outcomes achieved would represent the 'final' balance between economic and conservation aspirations.*

Response:

The declaration of a wild river area does not change land tenure or effect land tenure processes. A wild river declaration is similar to a local government planning scheme in that it guides development to protect specific river related natural values.

Despite the fact wild rivers is not tenure related, the roll out of wild rivers has been included in Cape York Land Tenure Resolution Implementation Group discussions (CYTRIG) to more effectively allow the wild rivers program to align with land tenure negotiations. The group includes key ministerial, as well as conservation and Indigenous representation.

Whilst the creation of national parks does indeed provide a 'conservation' outcome for Cape York Peninsula, it does not specifically preserve wild river natural values from a whole-of-catchment perspective, as is achieved by a wild river declaration.

3. Exclusion of national parks from wild river areas/no high preservation areas in national parks

Issue:

- *Legislation governing national parks already provides a high level of protection and conservation of the natural values over the lands and waters within the park boundaries. National parks could be exempted from the proposed declaration areas.*
- *Alternatively high preservation areas should be excluded from national parks.*

Response:

The intent and purpose of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Nature Conservation Act) and the Wild Rivers Act differ markedly.

The primary objective of the Nature Conservation Act is the conservation of nature through a broad state-wide conservation focus which includes the declaration and management of protected areas, protection of native wildlife and habitats, and sustainable use of protected wildlife.

The Nature Conservation Act does not specifically protect rivers, streams or particular riverine attributes (e.g. water quality, stream processes, riparian vegetation etc.) either within or outside protected areas. Nor does it operate on a catchment-wide basis or regulate water allocations and extractions within a holistic approach to the river system and its catchment.

The purpose of the Wild Rivers Act is to preserve the natural values of rivers that have all, or almost all, of their natural values intact. Natural values for preservation include hydrology, geomorphology, water quality and riparian and wildlife corridor function. Protection is achieved through the setting of appropriate development controls under the regulatory framework of existing legislation.

A key difference is the ‘whole-of-catchment approach’ implemented under the Wild Rivers Act. Under the Nature Conservation Act, protection is afforded only to specific areas such as those designated as national parks.

To achieve the ‘whole-of-catchment approach’, wild river areas apply equally across all tenures, including national parks. Dealing with tenures differently would risk creating ‘loopholes’ for special interests that may weaken the effect of the declaration. A declaration will manage any further development in a national park that may be approved under the Nature Conservation Act or through the Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS). The declaration does not fetter the park manager’s powers in regard to park management, but it does ensure that any developments are sensitive to preserving wild river natural values.

4. Indigenous management agreements will be impacted

Issue:

- *Indigenous management agreements (IMA’s) will be compromised by wild river requirements which may not allow certain activities agreed on as part of the IMA to occur.*
- *Wild River declarations over nationally parks unnecessarily complicate joint management agreements.*

Response:

Under the Nature Conservation Act, a final national park management plan must be consistent with a wild river declaration. However, activities in a national park managed under the Nature Conservation Act must be consistent with the purpose and intent of that Act. A requirement for an Indigenous management agreement (IMA) under the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* (Aboriginal Land Act) is that the IMA must state that the land will be managed as national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) in perpetuity. As such, a conflict between the declarations and an IMA is unlikely. Existing IMAs will not be affected by a wild river declaration.

Final declaration

No changes have been made to the declaration given the reasons outlined above.

2.2 Code issues

Issues raised

A number of issues in relation to or suggesting changes to the Wild Rivers Code were raised during consultation and in submissions. These related to some confusion around the language used in the Code, as well as more specific comments on the required outcomes and probable solutions for developments including agricultural and animal husbandry activities, aquaculture, environmentally relevant activities (ERAs), the taking of and interfering with overland flow and riverine quarry material extraction.

Most issues raised in regards to the Wild Rivers Code have no effect on the final declaration and in some cases may be outside the scope of the Wild Rivers Act, but all issues will be considered for any future amendments to the Wild Rivers Code.

An issue that was specific to the final declaration was:

1. Complying with setback distances.

Issues analysis

1. Complying with setback distances

Issue:

- *The ability to comply with the setbacks for the Wild Rivers Code as prescribed in Schedule 3 of a declaration was raised as a problem particularly where the location of existing developments was already within the setback distance stated in the declaration.*
- *Setbacks in the Code are too restrictive on development.*

Response:

It is important to recognise that the setback distances in Schedule 3 of the declaration form part of probable solutions to achieve required outcomes of the Wild Rivers Code.

These probable solutions are a suggested way of meeting the required outcomes which are the requirement that must be met. Probable solutions whilst recommended are not mandatory. Applicants however must meet the required outcome.

The setbacks distances reflect the intent of preserving a wild river's natural values and reflect a precautionary approach to managing development which can impact on the natural values. An applicant can propose an alternative way of meeting the required outcomes.

Further action

Setback distances are a suggested way of meeting the Wild Rivers Code and no further changes were considered necessary given that an alternative solution can be proposed. Other changes to the Wild Rivers Code outside of the scope of the declaration document will be considered in future code amendments.

2.3 Issues related to the Wild Rivers Act or other legislation

2.3.1 Determination of wild river area boundary

Issues raised

1. Wild River Area boundaries
2. Different methodologies

Issues analysis

1. Wild River Area Boundaries

Issue:

- *Wild river area boundaries should coincide with river basin boundaries, i.e. all parts of the river basin within which a wild river was proposed should be included within the wild river area boundary.*

Response:

A wild river declaration proposal sets out the proposed extent of the wild river area. For the Stewart Basin Wild River Area, initial analysis was conducted at the river basin scale to determine those rivers within the river basin that were appropriate for nomination as wild rivers.

The Wild Rivers Act provides that a wild river area should include the catchments of the wild river/s. Because more than one wild river may be included in a wild river area, a single wild river area may be composed of a number of wild rivers and their catchments. This is the case for the Stewart Basin Wild River Declaration. Under the Wild Rivers Act the wild river area cannot include areas that are outside the catchments of the wild rivers. Therefore, some parts of the Stewart Basin have not been proposed for inclusion in the wild river area.

All parts of a catchment necessarily drain to a single lowest point and, whilst this can describe some basins, there are also areas where multiple river systems within a basin may drain to different points (often different parts of the coast). Catchments within a river basin are often grouped together because of similarities in drainage characteristics, as is the case in a number of the basins on Cape York Peninsula.

2. Different methodologies

Issue:

- *A different rationale has been used to determine wild river area boundaries between the first six declared areas and this wild river area.*

Response:

Consistent methodology has been applied to determining wild river area boundaries for all declared and proposed wild river areas:

- Where possible, the whole catchment of the wild river is included, from source to sea or terminal lake, to preserve the hydrological connectivity of the system.
- Where only part of a wild river is identified to have all, or almost all, of its natural values intact, then only the relevant sub-catchment is included.

- Wild river area boundaries are based on catchment or sub-catchment boundaries. These are determined using existing catchment boundaries or based on topographic interpretation where these do not exist.
- Any land that is not within the catchment of the wild river is not included in the wild river area.
- Where possible and appropriate, wild river area boundaries will be based on river basin boundaries.

Further action

No further action required as the approach taken is consistent with previous methodologies and the intent of the Wild Rivers Act.

2.3.2 In-stream dams and weirs

Issues raised

1. In-stream dams and weirs on nominated waterways

Issues analysis

1. In-stream dams and weirs on nominated waterways

Issue:

- *New in-stream dams and weirs should be prohibited on nominated waterways. The fact they are not prohibited is a result of amendments made in 2006 (when the nominated waterways concept was introduced). Nominated waterways are protected from excavation of material, removal of riparian vegetation, stream diversion or realignment, however, are not protected from in-stream dam or weir construction. This inconsistency is reflected in the Fisheries Act 1994 (Fisheries Act)t.*

Response:

Construction of in-stream barriers such as dams or weirs require a development permit under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (IPA). Also, if proposed in a non tidal area, a licence to interfere under the Water Act is also required. The work would be required to comply with requirements of the Water Act as well as requirements for waterway barrier works under the Fisheries Act.

In a high preservation area, which includes the wild rivers and major tributaries, licences to interfere will not be approved under the Water Act and applications to construct waterway barriers works will be refused under the Fisheries Act. This helps preserve the natural values, particularly the hydrological values, in those areas most sensitive to impacts from in-stream barriers.

In the preservation area, in-stream dams and weirs are permitted even in nominated waterways. This is not the result of amendments made in 2006. Since the Wild Rivers Act was passed in 2005, there has never been a prohibition on the building of an in-stream dam or weir within the preservation area. The designation of nominated waterways in a preservation area came about to create certainty for stakeholders as in some circumstances it may be difficult to determine whether a drainage element can be defined as a watercourse. By designating nominated waterways it is made clear as to which waterways wild river requirements apply. As nominated waterways are part of the preservation area, then as has always been the case, in-stream dams and weirs are permitted if authorised. The Water Act and Fisheries Acts are therefore consistent in relation to nominated waterways.

Where in-stream dams and weirs are permitted they require a development permit for waterway barrier works under the IPA and are subject to the Wild Rivers Code, which also contains requirements relating to fish passage. A licence to interfere is also required and is subject to assessment under the Water Act. Such works are also likely to require a riverine protection permit under the Water Act for which the Wild Rivers Code must also be considered.

A nominated waterway may also be in part or whole a tidal waterway. In these circumstances for example, works in a tidal area or coastal management district involving construction of a barrage or other in-stream barrier would not be approved. Code requirements relating to fish movement would apply throughout the wild river area.

Existing prohibitions on in-stream barriers within wild rivers and major tributaries as well as a range of requirements applied through differing pieces of legislation including an assessment against the Wild Rivers Code, are considered sufficient to preserve the natural values of the wild rivers.

Further action

No further action required as this is consistent with the original policy intent of the Wild Rivers Act.

2.3.3 Incorporation of cultural values

Issues raised

1. Use of the term 'wild'
2. Indigenous people, their cultural values and significant places are not recognised
3. The Wild Rivers Act fails to indicate how cultural values and significant places are to be managed and protected

Issue analysis

1. Use of the term 'wild'

Issue:

- *The term 'wild' is seen as offensive or culturally inappropriate because the term has connotations with wilderness, and hence notions of being predominately void of human activity.*

Response:

Examination of the relevant definitions of the term 'wild' indicates why, on one hand, it is a suitable choice in terms of State terminology, yet objectionable to some Indigenous people.

The term 'wild' has a number of dictionary meanings. The intent of its use was to convey a notion that the rivers remain in a natural or relatively undisturbed condition. The government recognises that people have previously and still continue to live and move throughout the area, hence the continued spiritual, and physical, connection of Indigenous people to their traditional country.

The government recognises that the term 'wild' may cause offence to some Indigenous people and that there is objection to its continued use. The use of the term is not intended to diminish Aboriginal peoples' understanding of the term, nor their deep cultural and spiritual

connections to traditional country. The term, however, is now integral to the legislation and should be recognised for its duplicity of meaning.

Considered in terms of the potential for future economic development, the term ‘wild’ lends itself to brand or product marketing, as it invokes the concept of a ‘clean and green’ image or product. For example, the term could be exploited in future ecotourism development and destination marketing, or embraced in promotion of beef produced in wild river areas.

2. Indigenous people, their cultural values, and significant places are not recognised

Issue:

- *Traditional owners are not recognised in the nomination materials*
- *No recognition of cultural values—wild rivers is skewed toward environmental values and fails to recognise the importance of cultural values*

Response:

The government recognises the spiritual connections that Aboriginal people have with ‘traditional country’, and similarly the existence of cultural values and places either directly, or indirectly, associated with rivers and water bodies.

In Queensland, Aboriginal cultural heritage, being significant areas, objects or evidence of occupation, is primarily recognised and afforded protection under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act). This is the paramount mechanism for affording protection to Aboriginal sites etc. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that the designation of high preservation areas in a declared wild river area, will confer an additional level of protection to cultural places and values where these are closely associated with rivers and other water bodies (e.g. swamps and billabongs in floodplain management areas).

It is acknowledged that traditional owners and their cultural values and places are not specifically mentioned in the declaration proposal and overview report. This is because the intent of wild rivers is primarily to protect natural values of river systems. Nevertheless, it is recognised that on the Cape York Peninsula, there is a strong and enduring connection of Indigenous people to the land. For this reason considerable effort has occurred during the consultation program to ensure that Indigenous people are informed of the wild river declaration proposal and commonality links are recognised.

3. The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act fails to indicate how cultural values and significant places are to be managed

Issue:

- *Failure to recognise the important cultural values that exist along rivers and how these cultural values are to be managed.*

Response:

Wild rivers legislation and policy is focused upon the protection of natural values associated with river systems by application of development controls. It is not designed to prescribe on-ground management regimes.

Nevertheless, where cultural values and places are closely associated with rivers (i.e. within high preservation areas) the declaration is considered likely to provide an additional level of protection.

Natural resource management outcomes will occur through other government programmes including implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act, the Wild River Rangers program, through ongoing national park management and via landholders effecting day-to-day management requirements. See also section 2.4.1 on management of wild river areas.

Further action

No further action is required as cultural values are protected through existing legislation.

2.3.4 Mining activities

Issues raised

1. Environmental impacts of large scale mining
2. Mining should be restricted to prevent damage to cultural sites and artefacts
3. Fossicking should be allowed in the high preservation area

Issues analysis

1. Environmental impacts of large scale mining

Issue:

- *Concerns were raised regarding large scale mining on Indigenous lands and the environmental impacts on the rivers.*

Response:

Restrictions on mining tenements in wild river areas help preserve the wild river's natural values. In high preservation areas, surface mining is not permitted, exploration outside of watercourses or lakes can only involve low impact activities and exploration in-stream can only occur using limited hand sampling techniques.

Further restrictions on the granting on mineral development licences, mining claims and prospecting permits over high preservation area and nominated waterways also preserves the wild river's natural values.

Where mining operations can occur, conditions on mining tenements such as setbacks from nominated waterways apply and environmental impact statements and environmental management plans under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Environmental Protection Act) must take a wild river declaration into consideration.

Whilst a wild river declaration is not retrospective and will not impact on existing authorised mining activities, it may have an impact if a tenement is renewed or changed.

2. Mining should be restricted to prevent damage to cultural sites and artefacts

Issue:

- *Concerns were raised that mining activities should be restricted to prevent damage to cultural sites and artefacts.*

Response:

Restrictions are placed on mining in wild river areas, particularly in high preservation areas, in order to preserve the wild river's natural values. This is line with the intent of Wild Rivers Act.

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act is the primary mechanism to provide for the protection of Indigenous cultural sites—see section 2.3.3.

Restrictions on mining in a wild river area through the declaration, whilst preserving wild river natural values, will also provide an additional level of protection for cultural sites associated with the wild rivers.

3. Fossicking should be allowed in the high preservation area

Issue:

- *Fossicking was identified as a potential business opportunity but it would be restricted by the prohibition on the activity in the high preservation area.*

Response:

Fossicking activities often occur in and around rivers, with many fossicking licences often applying to a fossicking area. Impacts on wild river natural values, particularly geomorphic processes, riparian function and water quality, will occur due to the disturbance to river beds and banks and riparian vegetation as a result of fossicking activities.

In the high preservation area where natural values are most sensitive to impacts, and in nominated waterways which are important tributaries that contribute to a wild river's natural values, fossicking is prohibited under provisions of the *Fossicking Act 1994* (Fossicking Act).

Further action

No further action required.

2.3.5 Outstation development

Issues raised

1. Outstation development

Issue analysis

1. Outstation development

Issue:

- *Concern was raised that current and future outstation activities may be prohibited or restricted. These activities were suggested to include clearance and maintenance of airstrips, erection of buildings, sinking of wells for bore water, and fencing off outstation perimeters to reduce pig and horse damage and maintaining access to roads.*

Response:

The building of an outstation may require a development permit if the construction of the building is made assessable as a 'material change of use' against the local government planning scheme or as a subdivision application termed 'reconfiguration of a lot'.

In cases where the building of an outstation is assessable, the declaration states it is to comply with Part 5 of the Wild Rivers Code. Wild rivers provisions under the code include the required outcome that riparian areas and wildlife corridors along a nominated waterway or streams within a high preservation area are preserved. This can be achieved by meeting the suggested setback distances, or an alternative solution for meeting the required outcome of the Code can be proposed if the setback distance cannot be met.

A wild rivers declaration does not affect existing vegetation clearing laws associated with the building of residences and any reasonably associated building or structure. Vegetation clearing requirements for construction of houses are the same in and outside of the wild river area.

Clearing necessary to maintain existing infrastructure including any core airport infrastructure, buildings, fences, helipads, roads, stock yards, vehicular tracks, watering facilities and constructed drains (other than contour banks or other than to source construction material) is considered essential management. Essential management is not affected by a wild river declaration and under existing vegetation clearing laws is exempt from requiring a clearing permit.

There are also no wild river requirements for the construction of new domestic gardens for individuals or the community. The Wild Rivers Act considers domestic gardens to be producing agricultural products for the domestic needs of the occupants of the land where the maximum area of the land on which the products are produced is:

- (i) for fewer than 10 occupants of the land—0.25 ha;
- (ii) for 10 or more but fewer than 50 occupants of the land—2 ha;
- (iii) for 50 or more but fewer than 100 occupants of the land—4 ha;
- (iv) for 100 or more occupants of the land—6 ha;

This consideration in the Wild Rivers Act to allow domestic garden construction was specifically intended to minimise impacts on outstation development and allow occupants to produce their own food supply and maintain self sufficiency.

If the area for a large garden or new agricultural production is larger than the land specified above it will be considered an ‘agricultural activity’ as defined in the Wild Rivers Act. In a high preservation area an agricultural activity is prohibited and in a preservation area a new agricultural activity will be assessable against Part 1 of the Wild Rivers Code.

Whilst the actual construction of fence lines is not assessable as a development any clearing of native vegetation to construct the fence may require a permit. Road construction and airstrip construction may also require a clearing permit. See section 2.3.7 Vegetation Clearing.

There are no wild river requirements for grazing livestock on pastures and it is not considered to be an intensive animal feedlotting industry.

There are no wild river requirements for the taking of water (e.g. pumps, pipes etc.) from a watercourse, lake or spring for stock and domestic purposes. Existing requirements under the Water Act may need to be considered.

Further action

No further action was considered necessary as minimal impact on outstation development is anticipated. The department will continue discussions with stakeholders to ensure requirements for outstation development are clear and requirements are not unnecessarily onerous on future outstation development aspirations.

2.3.6 Private jetties and boat ramps

Issues raised

1. Private jetties and boat ramps

Issues analysis

1. Private jetties and boat ramps

Issue:

- *Submitters claim that the proposed requirement for only public use jetties and boat ramps:*
 - *does not make adequate provision for access to outstations and potential ecotourism sites and hence is highly restrictive on the social and economic development opportunities for remote Cape York communities, and*
 - *poses implications for safety in high-risk crocodile areas.*

Response:

The declaration proposal sets out different management areas within which certain development activities may be restricted. Additionally, certain wild rivers requirements or restrictions will apply in fish habitat areas, coastal management districts and tidal areas.

Operational works, such as building a jetty in a coastal management district or tidal area, may only be permitted for specified works.¹ In a fish habitat area, building or operational works may only be permitted for specified works.

Specified works is termed to include jetties and boat ramps for use by the public. The term also includes other infrastructure, prescribed under a regulation, which relates to the transportation, movement, transmission or flow of anything through a wild river area.

The construction of jetties and boat ramps outside coastal management districts, tidal areas or fish habitat areas requires a riverine protection permit under the Water Act. Such a permit can only be granted for specified works and is therefore currently restricted to public purposes.

Restrictions on in-stream infrastructure in both freshwater and estuarine areas provide a means of moderating the proliferation of private structures which can directly impact on bed and bank stability, geomorphic processes and result in water quality issues, particularly during the construction phase.

The department acknowledges that this is a potential issue for communities in the Stewart Basin Wild River Area with plans to improve access to existing outstations or establish access for new outstations and/or ecotourism developments. The current regulation of boat

¹ See *Wild Rivers Act 2005* for full definition.

ramps and jetties reflects the need to balance in-stream developments with the application of a consistent policy in wild river areas. However, the government recognises that there is a low risk of this type of development proliferating in the foreseeable future within the Stewart Basin Wild River Area. A number of options seeking to address these concerns, including the possibility of amending the *Wild Rivers Regulation 2007*, are currently being considered and developed.

Further action

An amendment to the *Wild Rivers Regulation 2007* is currently being developed to address concerns about this issue.

2.3.7 Vegetation clearing

Issues raised

1. Clearing for tourism infrastructure, outstations, agricultural and cultural purposes
2. Thickening of vegetation
3. Clearing of regrowth

Issues analysis

1. Clearing for tourism infrastructure, outstations, agricultural and cultural purposes

Issue:

- *Concern was raised that the requirements in the declaration may place substantial restrictions on native vegetation clearing for building tourism infrastructure, outstations, and for agricultural and cultural purposes. The vegetation clearing requirements were 'unclear and convoluted' and requirements for clearing to construct a residence were confusing.*

Response:

A wild rivers declaration does not affect existing vegetation clearing laws associated with the building of residences and any reasonably associated building or structure. Vegetation clearing requirements for construction of houses is the same in and outside of the wild river area.

Vegetation clearing necessary to maintain existing infrastructure including any core airport infrastructure, buildings, fences, helipads, roads, stock yards, vehicular tracks, watering facilities and constructed drains (other than contour banks or other than to source construction material) is considered essential management. Essential management is not affected by a wild river declaration and under existing vegetation clearing laws is exempt from requiring a clearing permit.

Wild river provisions only apply to vegetation clearing in a high preservation area. They do not impose any additional requirements onto existing vegetation clearing laws which continue to apply in a preservation area.

In a high preservation area, native vegetation clearing applications can be accepted for the following purposes:

- if necessary to control non-native plants or declared pests (e.g. clearing for control of lantana)
- to ensure public safety (e.g. removal of trees that are likely to fall into public spaces such as parks and roads, endangering human life)

- for establishing a necessary fence, firebreak, road or vehicular track, or for constructing necessary built infrastructure, if there is no suitable alternative site for the fence, firebreak, road, track or infrastructure
- as a natural and ordinary consequence of other assessable development as prescribed under section 22A of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (Vegetation Management Act)
- for clearing of encroachment (e.g. for clearing an invading woody species from a natural grassland)
- in an urban development area under the *Urban Land Development Authority Act 2007* (ULDA Act)
- for clearing regrowth in a registered area of agriculture (as shown on a map prepared by the department).

Vegetation clearing for tourism infrastructure and outstations can continue to occur throughout the wild river area and may require a permit. Clearing for the construction of a private house/residential dwelling may be exempt under existing vegetation laws. Clearing for establishing a new agricultural development is not a relevant purpose under the Vegetation Management Act whether in a wild river area or not.

2. Thickening of vegetation

Issue:

- *Concern was raised that some areas of vegetation had considerably thickened over time and this was suggested to be attributed to changes in traditional and cultural management practices. Concern was raised that wild rivers provisions will prohibit traditional cultural practices particularly in the high preservation area.*

Response:

Vegetation thinning is a relevant purpose that can be applied for in a preservation area however not in a high preservation area. Areas in the high preservation area are closest to rivers systems or special features such as wetlands and generally contain thickened riparian vegetation in its natural state. Wild rivers legislation aims to protect the natural values of river systems and excludes mechanical and chemical thinning of vegetation in the high preservation area

The wild rivers declaration will not affect native title rights, including those that are traditional and cultural burning practices.

Wild river provisions do not affect existing fire management practices. Wild river provisions also do not affect the clearing of native vegetation for firebreaks. Under existing vegetation clearing laws the clearing of a new firebreak essential to the management of the property does not need a permit if the clearing is for:

- establishing or maintaining a firebreak to protect infrastructure, such as buildings (but not fences, roads or vehicle track), provided the firebreak is not wider than 20 metres or 1.5 times the height of the tallest vegetation adjacent to the infrastructure in the area, whichever is the greater, or
- for establishing a necessary fire management line, provided it is not wider than 10 metres, or
- by fire to reduce a hazardous fuel load.

Clearing for a fire break that does not meet the above requirements will need a permit under existing vegetation management requirements.

3. Clearing of regrowth

Issue:

- *Clearing of regrowth in a high preservation area and preservation area should be exempt from requiring a clearing permit.*

Response:

The high preservation area is taken to be an area of high nature conservation value under the Vegetation Management Act and becomes a Category 1 area for which a *Property map of assessable vegetation* (PMAV) is produced. Clearing in a Category 1 area generally requires a permit unless the clearing is exempt under Schedule 8 of the IPA. As wild river requirements only affect the high preservation area and this is where natural values are most susceptible to impacts from clearing, it is considered appropriate that a permit is required. Applications for regrowth clearing in a high preservation area are limited to areas where agricultural development such as cropping, exists at the time of declaration.

In a preservation area, clearing regrowth continues to be a relevant purpose under the Vegetation Management Act.

Further action

No further action is required as clearing restrictions are considered necessary to protect the natural values of the river system.

2.3.8 Wild rivers terminology

Issues raised

1. The use of the word ‘preservation’ with reference to management areas (that is, high preservation area, and preservation area) is inappropriate

Issue analysis

1. The use of the word ‘preservation’ with reference to management areas (that is, high preservation area, and preservation area is inappropriate

Issue:

- *The Wild Rivers Act allows for the declaration of a wild river area that will, or may, include management areas deemed ‘high preservation areas’ or ‘preservation areas’. The use of this term attracted some opposition, as the connotation of the term by naming them ‘preservation’ areas, infers no development could take place within said area.*

Response:

The Queensland Government can declare a wild river area under the Wild Rivers Act in order to preserve the natural values of that river system. The management areas within the wild river area are thus termed ‘high preservation area’ and ‘preservation area’ (amongst others). Furthermore, “preserve” is analogous with both maintain and protect, and its use is therefore appropriate, as it indicates these management areas are not only to be protected, but also to ensure their present condition is maintained. The use of the term preservation in

naming the management areas is consistent with the objective of the Wild Rivers Act, to preserve the natural values of a river basin.

Further action

No further action required as terminology reflects the Wild Rivers Act and is consistent with the policy intent.

2.3.9 Riverine quarry material

Issues raised

1. Quarrying in high preservation area
2. Availability of quarry material

Issue analysis

1. Quarrying in high preservation area

Issue:

- *No new quarrying operations should be permitted to start in the wild river high preservation area*

Response:

The extraction of riverine quarry material from non tidal watercourses is regulated by the Water Act. The activity may also be regulated by the Environmental Protection Act as an environmentally relevant activity (ERA) due to the risk this activity presents in potentially causing environmental harm through disturbing the integrity of the riverine environment.

Due to the potential impacts on the natural values in a wild river area applications for an ERA for extraction cannot be dealt with under the Environmental Protection Act, except if it is low impact (i.e. those under 10 000 m³), and it is for specified works such as roads, or for use in residential complexes (outstations, ecotourism resorts etc).

New quarry allocations under the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* (CPM Act), will not be granted in a wild river area.

New allocations of quarry material under the Water Act may only be granted in a wild river area if the quarry material for the proposed allocation is to be used for specified works or residential complexes, in the wild river area. When deciding whether to grant or refuse these allocations the chief executive must also consider the wild river declaration and be satisfied that there is no other suitable source of material not in a watercourse that is within a reasonable distance from where the specified works or the residential complex is situated.

If the development is an allowable activity within a high preservation area, the requirements in Part 10 of the Wild Rivers Code must be met in order for the development to be approved.

The government considers that the requirements as specified in the Wild Rivers Code are sufficient to avoid, reduce and mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts on the natural values of a wild river area whilst allowing for important community infrastructure to be maintained and developed.

2. Availability of quarry material

Issue:

- *Limitations on new allocations for riverine sand and gravel material for town infrastructure (buildings) will result in additional haulage costs*

Response:

It is still possible to obtain new allocations for riverine quarry material for construction of town infrastructure such as roads. Also, existing authorised quarry material allocations and operations can continue in a wild river area.

The extraction of off-stream material does not require an allocation and applications for an ERA for off-stream extraction can be accepted in all parts of a wild river area. However, if proposed in a high preservation area or a floodplain management area (FMA) the extraction must be small scale and for specified works or residential complexes.

Further action

No further action required as the ability to obtain authorisations for off-stream quarry material is considered appropriate for meeting community demands for quarry material, whilst still maintaining the natural values of river systems.

2.3.10 Specified works

Issues raised

1. Specified works

Issue analysis

1. Specified works

Issue:

- *The specified works definition should include airstrips, ports and other related infrastructure*

Response:

Specified works are defined in the Wild Rivers Act and include:

- linear transport infrastructure such as roads, tracks, railways, conveyors and pipelines, including associated bridges and stream crossings
- jetties, boat ramps and piers available for public use
- linear transmission infrastructure such as powerlines and telecommunication lines, including associated stream crossings
- removal of snags in a marked navigation channel that threaten boating safety; and
- works to rehabilitate land, such as the removal of contaminated soil and seal abandoned mine shafts, and
- infrastructure and works prescribed under a regulation to be necessary for disaster management or that relate to the transportation, movement, transmission or flow of anything through a wild river area including, for example, goods, materials, substances, matter, particles with or without charge, light, energy, information and anything generated or produced.

Applications for specified works in a wild river area may be made even if other activities are effectively prohibited in this area. For example, applications for building or operational work in declared fish habitat areas in the high preservation area will not be accepted unless for specified works. Such works are assessable and an application can only be approved if it complies with the Wild Rivers Code.

Airstrips are recognised as of vital importance to remote communities and wild river requirements are unlikely to impact on either the maintenance or construction of airstrips, unless riverine quarry material is required. Further analysis of this issue has revealed that in-stream material is either unnecessary or indeed inappropriate and off-stream sources are better suited for this purpose. As such no changes are required to the specified works definition.

In relation to the construction of ports, if a port is part of a mining activity it will be dealt with under a stringent process requiring an environmental authority. The process for assessing an application for an environmental authority will take into consideration any wild river requirements outlined in the wild river declaration aimed at preserving the wild river natural values. Where a port is not part of a mining activity, or included in the environmental authority a proposal for such a development can be considered on a case-by-case basis, with specific amendments able to be made to the Wild Rivers Regulation as required to allow for such a development to proceed.

Further action

No further action required as any infrastructure that meets the definition under s. 48 of the Wild Rivers Act can be assessed on a case by case basis.

2.3.11 Other Wild Rivers Act issues

Issues raised

A number of issues were raised about the implications of a wild river declaration under the Wild Rivers Act. Specifically, these were as follows:

1. sewage treatment
2. the development of petroleum storage and mechanical workshops
3. commercial agriculture
4. residential, commercial and industrial development .

Issues analysis

1. Development of sewage treatment facilities

Issue:

- *The requirements as outlined in a wild river declaration and in the Wild Rivers Code for treating sewage is prohibitive It was also suggested that expanding an operation would be difficult if they were forced to meet EPA (now Department of Environment and resource Management) requirements.*

Response:

The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) regulates sewage treatment works as an environmentally relevant activity due to the risk this activity presents in potentially contaminating the environment with pollutants.

Due to the potential impacts on water quality in nearby wild rivers and/or nominated waterways, the construction of a new sewerage treatment and/or water treatment facility is effectively prohibited within a high preservation area unless the assessment manager and concurrence agency are satisfied that there is no viable alternative location for the facility to occur outside the high preservation area.

If the development is allowed to proceed within a high preservation area, there are a number of stringent requirements in Part 3 of the Code that must be met in order for the development to be approved. These requirements intend to mitigate and prevent impacts on the wild river natural values.

2a. Petroleum storage

Issue:

- *Concerns were raised that a declaration would prohibit a planned increase in petroleum storage on a property and the construction of a new commercial motor vehicle workshop (refer 2b—Mechanical workshops).*

Response:

The DERM regulates the development of petroleum storage facilities as an environmentally relevant activity due to the risk this activity presents to potentially contaminate the environment with pollutants.

Due to the potential impacts on wild river natural values, crude oil or petroleum storage is prohibited in a high preservation area unless it is for residential complexes or in a designated urban area. A residential complex is considered to be land in a wild river area, including buildings and infrastructure on the land, which is used to accommodate fewer than 50 permanent residents and 200 temporary residents. Residential complexes do not include land that is in a DUA. If the activity is not prohibited, then the activity is considered to be assessable.

If the development is allowed to proceed within a high preservation area, the requirements of Part 3 of the Wild Rivers Code must be met in order for the development to be approved. These requirements intend to mitigate and prevent impacts on the wild river natural values.

2b. Mechanical workshops

Response:

The DERM regulates the development of motor vehicle workshops as an environmentally relevant activity due to the risk this activity presents to potentially contaminate the environment with pollutants.

The development of a new mechanical workshop may be permitted within a DUA anywhere within a wild river area. However, this type of development is prohibited within a high preservation area outside of a designated urban area. Approval for this type of development will not be granted within a high preservation area due to the risk of pollution leakage or runoff into wild rivers and/or nominated waterways and the potential to impact on the natural values of the wild river area. However, new activity may occur, if approved through a property development plan process (see section 2.4.5).

Existing approvals and received applications prior to the declaration will continue as if there are no wild river declarations in place.

3. Commercial agriculture in a high preservation area

Issue:

- *Concerns were raised that a declaration would prohibit the planned planting of hayfields and diesel trees where planting was proposed to be located within a high preservation area.*
- *A concern was also raised that a rural subdivision horse and for hay paddocks may also be affected by the declaration of a wild river area.*

Response:

Existing agricultural activities are not affected by the declaration of a wild river area however, due to the impacts on wild river natural values; new agricultural activities² are prohibited in a high preservation area. Evidence of existing agricultural activities may include plans and/or contracts to engage service providers to commence work as an existing undertaking on that particular property.

New plantings of trees and shrubs, such as diesel trees, would be considered to be a new agricultural activity and prohibited within the high preservation area. New activity may occur, if approved through a property development plan process (see section 2.4.5).

In relation to the creation of 40-acre blocks, there are currently no wild river requirements in relation to the subdivision of land.

4. Residential, commercial and industrial development

Issue:

- *It was suggested that all new non-ERA residential, commercial and industrial developments be made assessable under the Wild Rivers Act because local governments may not have the necessary capacity to assess impacts from these types of developments on wild river natural values and that local government planning schemes do not require consideration of such impacts.*

Response:

Residential, commercial and industrial development is able to occur in a high preservation area and is managed by local governments. Local governments are best suited to assess and manage these types of developments.

If such development is assessable development under a local government planning scheme, then Part 5 of the Code applies. These requirements intend to mitigate and prevent impacts on the wild river natural values.

The government also considers that local governments have existing processes for assessing these development activities. Utilising this process reduces duplication in undertaking assessments. Local governments have been informed of the requirements of the Wild Rivers

² Agriculture activities as defined under the *Wild Rivers Act 2005*.

Act and the Code. The government will continue to liaise with local governments in wild river areas and provide assistance if required.

Further action

No further action is required as the ability to still obtain authorisations for such activities in the majority of the wild river area is considered suitable in preserving the wild river natural values whilst allowing for further development opportunities.

2.4 Other issues

2.4.1 Management of wild river areas

Issues raised

A number of issues were raised during both consultation activities and the submission period that relate to the current, and future, management of Wild River areas.

Issues raised include:

1. the continuation and expansion of Wild River Rangers program
2. that existing land management is inadequate
3. the provision of resources for future research and monitoring
4. the development and implementation of an Indigenous Natural and Cultural Heritage Resource Management Plan (INCRMP).

Issues analysis

1. The continuation and expansion of the Wild River Rangers program

Issue:

- *The wild river rangers program should be continued and expanded as resourcing for land management activities such as fire management, pest animal and weed control, is integral to protecting the natural values of rivers. It was also raised that it is important for Indigenous people to be involved in the conservation and management of their lands.*

Response:

The Queensland Government's Wild River Rangers program aims to protect and promote the world-class natural values of Queensland's wild rivers. Presently, there are 20 Aboriginal Wild River Rangers based at various locations throughout the Gulf of Carpentaria and Cape York Peninsula. These rangers ensure that the wild river area is better managed and protected by managing feral animals and weeds, managing fire, collecting data and information on local species, recording traditional stories and managing visitor activity.

Following the initial employment of 20 rangers, the Government is reviewing the program to determine how it moves forward. The government does however remain committed to employing a total of 100 wild river rangers.

2. That existing land management is inadequate and that there is a need for the provision of resources for future research and monitoring

Issue:

- *Existing land management practices are inadequate and under-resourced, particularly with regard to the management of feral animals, weeds and commercial fishing (amongst others), as well as for the protection of cultural sites (for example, unregulated camping along rivers where sacred sites may exist). Resources should be provided for future research and monitoring, and the incorporation of this data into management plans with the appointment of a field officer to undertake research.*

Response:

Whilst a wild river declaration does not deal with issues at the operational or management level there are a range of both government and non-government organisations that provide support, and focus, to land and natural resource management including natural resource management bodies, river improvement trusts and land and sea centres. Furthermore, state agencies and local governments undertake various land management activities such as feral animal and weed control and revegetation programs. In addition, there are numerous state and federal government initiatives aimed at fostering community natural resource management programs.

A further positive to address land management issues in wild river areas is the Wild River Rangers program mentioned above which is also aimed at implementing better land and riverine management practices so that wild river values are preserved.

3. Indigenous Natural and Cultural Heritage Resource Management Plan (INCRMP)

Issue:

- *That an Indigenous Natural and Cultural Resource Management Plan (INCRMP) be developed to support the declaration and be implemented by land managers and Wild River Rangers.*

Response:

An Indigenous Natural and Cultural Heritage Resource Management Plan (INCRMP) would need to address a range of issues including land and natural resource management, social and economic development as well as the protection and management of cultural heritage. The development and implementation of such a plan is outside the scope of a wild river declaration and the wild rivers program. However, a wild river declaration and the preservation of wild river natural values would be a key component of such a plan should it be developed.

Further action

The department will continue to work with other state agencies to promote the allocation of appropriate resources to the management of wild river areas.

2.4.2 Future economic opportunities

Issues raised

A number of issues were raised about the implications of a wild river declaration for economic opportunities, including:

1. production of arts and crafts
2. agriculture and aquaculture
3. small scale agriculture
4. funding and personnel for developing compatible industries

5. expansion and sustainability of existing business
6. compensation
7. overcomplicated requirements
8. reduced job creation.

Issues analysis

1. Production of arts and crafts

Issue:

- *The collection of reeds for use in the commercial production of arts and crafts is a native title right, and the restrictions on clearing of native vegetation would prohibit this activity within high preservation areas.*

Response:

Any activity considered to be a native title right will not be affected by a wild river declaration. Native title rights are expressly exempted from the impact of a wild river declaration or the Wild Rivers Code, through s 44 (2) of the Wild Rivers Act.

2. Agriculture and aquaculture

Issue:

- *Prohibitions on agriculture and aquaculture within the high preservation area are at odds with other government policies aimed at facilitating the economic advancement of Cape York communities.*

Response:

The wild river declaration sets out management areas within which certain wild river requirements apply. In the high preservation area, the natural values of the wild river are most sensitive to activities. Many new activities that will cause negative impacts on the natural values will be effectively prohibited in this area. Where an application may be lodged, the activity will need to meet strict requirements to be approved. The proposed preservation area covers the wild river area outside of the proposed high preservation area. New activities in this area will have less effect on the natural values of the wild rivers. Therefore, most new activities may be permitted in this area, provided wild river requirements are met.

Restrictions on new agricultural and aquaculture development are applied through regulating Acts, including:

- the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, where permit applications relating to clearing native vegetation in a high preservation area will be accepted for a reduced number of “purposes”
- the *Fisheries Act 1994* limits the purposes for which marine plants may be cleared in a wild river area, and prohibits new aquaculture
- the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* also prohibits new aquaculture in a high preservation area
- the *Wild Rivers Act 2005* prohibits new agricultural activities within the high preservation area where soil cultivation is required, and produce is grown for commercial sale.

New agriculture and aquaculture activities can proceed, subject to the Wild Rivers Code requirements and other legislative constraints, in over 80 per cent of the wild river area. Prohibiting these developments from the high preservation area ensures that the natural values of the river systems are preserved. However they may still be able to occur through the property development planning process. The property development planning process set out in the Wild Rivers Act provides the potential for a prohibited activity to be undertaken in the high preservation area—see section 2.4.5.

In-stream aquaculture may occur in nominated waterways, as well as other watercourses in the preservation area. Water for off-stream aquaculture is available through the general reserve of water provided in the wild river declaration or, if related to achieving the economic aspirations of Indigenous community members, through the Indigenous reserve.

3. Small scale agriculture

Issue:

- *Distinctions between small scale agricultural activities for commercial purposes and the same activities for non commercial purposes, are inappropriate. Restrictions should only be based on the potential impacts on the wild river systems, i.e. the scale or intensity of the activity should be the only consideration, not the “end use” of produce.*

Response:

Prior to the *Wild Rivers and Other Legislative Amendments Act 2006* (WROLA 2006), prohibitions on agriculture may have prevented the establishment of new community gardens in wild river high preservation areas. Consultation during 2006 highlighted the need to balance moderation of riverine impacts with access to fresh fruit and vegetables in remote areas and particularly for outstations. WROLA 2006 made changes to the definition of agriculture in the Wild Rivers Act, to effectively exempt small community gardens from wild river requirements anywhere in a wild river area. Moderating impacts of development, including agriculture, on wild river systems is the primary goal of a wild river declaration, however the government is committed to ensuring the health of remote communities is a high priority.

4. Funding and personnel for developing compatible industries

Issue:

- *Funding and personnel should be available to aid in researching and implementing appropriate industries that are compatible with wild river values. This would help ensure sustainable land management and regional prosperity are achieved.*

Response:

The Wild Rivers program is a whole of government initiative. Programs and initiatives are being implemented across government to assist the development of appropriate businesses in Cape York. The Queensland government has shown a commitment to Indigenous economic development and employment through:

- land tenure reform
- the Looking after Country Together framework
- the Wild Rivers Ranger Program
- opportunities through the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007*

- development of the Cape York and Torres Strait Tourism Development Action Plan
- the Indigenous Arts Program
- the Indigenous Business Development Program
- job creation in the public sector

5. Expansion and sustainability of existing business

Issue:

- *The wild river declaration will reduce the potential expansion and sustainability of existing business, including sustainable tourism enterprises.*

Response:

Wild river requirements only apply to certain types of new activities once a wild river area is declared. Approvals and authorisations in place prior to the declaration being made are not subject to wild river requirements. Analyses of submissions, and the results of consultation activities, have not highlighted significant impediments to the sustainability, or expansion, of existing businesses resulting from a declaration being made. Wild River requirements for new residential and commercial development (for example, ecotourism) can occur as long as these are consistent with the Wild Rivers Code. Sewage treatment is not prohibited in the high preservation area, provided it complies with the Wild Rivers Code. Approval for new fuel storages is not prohibited in a high preservation area, provided it is for residential complexes (such as outstations or ecotourism ventures) or specified works.

The wilderness values of Cape York Peninsula are widely regarded as an important asset for Queensland and the associated tourism is regarded as one of the most potentially viable industries of the area. Wild river declarations will help to preserve the natural values of wild rivers in these areas, thus preserving the same values considered essential for eco or cultural tourism developments. Declaration of a wild river area recognises and promotes the environmental credentials of these areas. Water is available from the strategic reserve for ecotourism enterprises, and from the general reserve for other commercial developments. Traditional Owners are able to access volumes of water for commercial enterprises from the general reserve, the strategic reserve (for ecotourism developments), and the Indigenous reserve.

6. Compensation

Issue:

- *Landowners should be compensated for “taking away development rights”.*
- *Landowners should be compensated for reductions in property values.*

Response:

The Wild Rivers Act does not in any way affect existing development rights and entitlements held prior to a wild river declaration being made. As such, a declaration does not ‘take away development rights’, and the legislation does not include any compensation provisions as a result.

Further, the passage of legislation which prohibits certain development occurring in future does not by default lead to any requirement for compensation to be made payable. The reason for this is that an application in and of itself does not guarantee that the application will be approved and therefore is only potentially a ‘development right’.

The Wild Rivers Act was enacted by Parliament with the purpose of preserving rivers that have all or almost all of their natural values intact. Wild River declarations do prohibit certain activities and may regulate other development activities. However, the legislation does provide that where a wild river declaration is in place over an area, owners of land may make application to the Minister for approval of a property development plan.

Should a property development plan be approved, the declaration may be amended to provide for certain development activities as outlined in the approved property development plan. However, the any subsequent amendment to the declaration does not remove the requirement for appropriate development approvals to be obtained.

In accordance with the legislation as enacted by parliament the department's view is that no compensation is payable for any perceived reduction in property values.

7. Overcomplicated requirements

Issue:

- *New development controls and wild river requirements will overcomplicate existing requirements.*

Response:

With the exception of agriculture and animal husbandry, wild river requirements are integrated with the existing requirements of regulating acts. There is no new application process as a result of a wild river declaration. Applications will continue to be dealt with by the relevant state agency or local government as occurred prior to a declaration. The assessing agency or local government will apply the wild rivers code requirements along with all the other existing requirements for a particular development type. In many cases there will only be one or two additional requirements to those already existing.

8. Reduced job creation

Issue:

- *Wild river requirements will result in reduced job creation for local communities.*

Response:

While a wild river declaration may impact on the viability of some high impact development activities proposed within a high preservation area, the preservation of the natural values of wild rivers is regarded as a priority in Cape York Peninsula. Discussions about the establishment of “culturally and environmentally appropriate economies” for the Peninsula have continued for more than five years. As a planning tool, the wild river declaration is consistent with the development of industries that do not compromise these environmental values. The wild river declaration represents a planning approach that ensures sensitive natural values are preserved for future generations whilst allowing development to proceed. The declaration allows development to occur in the total wild river area—there is not an exclusion zone where no development is allowed. The declaration also represents a marketing opportunity, both nationally and internationally, for the promotion and development of “clean and green” industries.

Further action

Government officers will continue to provide information to the community and business sectors about wild river requirements and the wild rivers program.

2.4.3 Native title and Indigenous rights

Issues raised

1. Indigenous human rights and land use
2. Consent of Indigenous people

Issues analysis

1. Indigenous human rights and land use

Issue:

- *That the declaration should not impact on Indigenous rights and interests that are protected under other Acts.*
- *Indigenous access, use, occupancy, management, conservation, cultural and development rights over Indigenous land in the Cape could be impacted by the declaration.*

Response:

A wild river declaration is aimed at preserving natural values of rivers systems. Cultural heritage values are recognised and protected under other acts such as the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act and the Nature Conservation Act in relation to protected areas. The Wild Rivers Act does not impact on the rights afforded under these Acts while management and conservation rights and interests are also not impacted by a wild river declaration.

Wild river requirements do not impact on Native Title rights or cultural heritage rights and they do not apply to 'day-to-day' traditional activities (which generally do not require an approval or development assessment). Activities such as camping, hunting, fishing, use of traditional fish traps, collecting bush foods and medicines, conducting ceremonial activities, manufacture of traditional artefacts and traditional fire management practices can continue to occur in a declared wild river area. Importantly, native title rights are specifically protected from any effects of the wild river declaration or Wild Rivers Code.

Wild rivers does not regulate the collection of live or fallen (dead) timber, other plant material, ochre, clay and stone for an Aboriginal traditional cultural activity. Collection of these materials for the conduct of a traditional Aboriginal cultural activity, other than a commercial activity, is termed 'specified activity' under the IPA and is exempt from requiring a clearing permit under provisions of the Vegetation Management Act.

The Wild Rivers Act and subsequent wild river declarations are also not tenure specific. They apply to all land within a declared wild river area whether it is freehold, Indigenous freehold, leasehold land, national parks or unallocated state land.

The Wild Rivers Act does not impact on access and occupancy rights and has no influence on land tenure. The land tenure resolution process is occurring through other government programs and is outside the scope of a wild river declaration.

A wild river declaration is essentially a planning tool that ensures development does not degrade the natural values of wild river systems in Queensland. It does this by regulating future development activities and resource allocations within declared wild rivers and their respective catchment areas.

Development can proceed in the greater part of a wild river area and it must simply comply with requirements aimed at ensuring catchment based activities do not impact on the river systems. Importantly, even in high preservation areas where most development restrictions are imposed, activities such as grazing, outstation development, essential infrastructure and ecotourism enterprises can still occur.

Indigenous development opportunities can also be supported by a wild river declaration. An Indigenous water reserve is included in the declaration to assist Indigenous communities to achieve their social and economic aspirations. This Indigenous reserve ensures that sufficient water is available under the Wild Rivers Act to provide everyone with acceptable and physically accessible water for economic development purposes.

In support of managing wild river areas, the government has developed a Wild River Ranger program which employs Indigenous rangers to protect and promote the world class natural values of Queensland's Wild Rivers. To date 20 Wild River Rangers have been employed in Cape York Peninsula and across the Gulf of Carpentaria. This provides employment and economic benefits to Indigenous people and communities in these areas.

2. Consent of Indigenous People

Issue:

- *That wild river declarations should not proceed without the full support/free, prior and informed consent from Indigenous people.*

Response:

Indigenous people are among the many stakeholders who may be affected by a wild river declaration. The government has consulted widely and actively engaged with Indigenous individuals, interest groups and peak bodies about the wild river declarations. The government has also actively engaged local governments, including the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council, Aurukun Shire Council and Cook Shire Council.

Consultation has occurred on country and in communities and through key groups and organisations that represent Indigenous interests. At the request of peak Indigenous bodies, the wild rivers program was discussed within the Cape York Tenure Resolution Implementation Group (CYTRIG) as a way of having high level issues with wild river declarations resolved. Further, Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation was engaged by the government to facilitate consultation with Indigenous stakeholders and assist traditional owners in developing submissions.

All of these submissions as well as the results of consultation with Indigenous people in potential wild river areas are given consideration by the Minister before final decisions about wild river declarations are made. Traditional owners in a wild river area will continue to be assisted through a range of programs to achieve social and economic development on their homelands.

Further action

No further action required as native title rights are specifically protected in the Wild Rivers Act. Traditional and cultural activities likewise are not impacted by the declaration.

2.4.4 Increased local government workloads

Issues raised

1. Imposition of additional work for local government

Issues analysis

1. Imposition of additional work for local government

Issue:

- *The declaration will have the effect of imposing additional development assessment obligations on council. Additional resources including personnel and training should be available for development assessment and land use planning.*

Response:

It is not expected that a wild river declaration will cause any significant impact on local government administration or workloads due to the low levels of development pressure and activity in wild river areas.

Notwithstanding this, the department is prepared to provide information and training to local governments in the application and use of a declaration and the Wild Rivers Code.

Applications relating to a material change of use of premises for residential, commercial and industrial, and operational works associated with reconfiguring a lot, are subject to the Code if a local government planning scheme makes them assessable development and it is outside a designated urban area. This is anticipated to be the extent of a local government's involvement in wild river assessments.

Further action

The department will continue to liaise with local governments regarding any issues with the implementation of a wild river declaration.

2.4.5 Property development plans

Issues raised

1. No capacity to develop and prepare property development plans and therefore assistance should be available for developing these plans
2. Delays could occur for undertaking economic development

Issue analysis

1. No capacity to develop and prepare property development plans and therefore assistance should be available for developing these plans

Issue:

- *Lack of capacity to develop and prepare property development plans would lead to the need to engage consultants at further cost and the department has imposed a fee for processing an application for approval of a property development plan. The*

department should assist in the development of property development plans as required and provide financial assistance to cover assessment fees.

Response:

Property development plans are a planning tool under division 2 A of the Wild Rivers Act. A property development plan is intended to provide a mechanism for certain development to occur where the proposed development cannot otherwise be done under the existing wild river declaration. The plan is an outline of development proposed to be undertaken over the next 10 years for that part of the property that is within a wild river area.

A property development plan, if approved, may provide a basis for the Minister to consider an amendment to the wild river declaration in order to accommodate the proposed development.

As a property development plan is seeking to undertake otherwise prohibited development there are stringent requirements for the development of a plan. The department recognises this and that some potential applicants do not have the resources to meet all of the criteria. Therefore the department is prepared to provide ongoing advice to potential applicants on what is required for developing a property development plan. However, if approved, a property development plan has the potential to provide economic benefit to the applicant and therefore any costs associated with developing a plan are expected to be recouped through the development being undertaken.

No financial assistance is available to cover the application fee. The application fee of \$290 is considered minimal considering the costs associated with assessing an application. This amount is less than the fees charged for many development applications required by other agencies and local government.

2. Delays could occur for undertaking economic development

Issue:

- *The approval process may be convoluted and an approval of a property development plan may warrant amendment of the wild river declaration. The property development process may delay economic development initiatives.*

Response:

For a property development plan, if approved, to have effect a wild river declaration would need to be amended. This would be a public process with the opportunity for submissions to be made. The government acknowledges that this process may take a significant length of time. However, as the property development plan is seeking to allow prohibited development, which has been identified as a threat to natural values, it is appropriate that significant consideration is given to the plan in the public arena, particularly in relations to a plan's outline of how natural values will not be impacted.

It must also be understood that approval of a property development plan and any amendment of a wild river declaration is not an approval for a particular type of development. It simply provides a mechanism for a development application to be made. This development application would then have to meet any requirements under relevant legislation.

Further action

No further action required due to the reasons outlined above.

2.4.6 Nomination and supporting material

Issues raised

1. Information supporting assessment of natural values in declaration documents
2. No use of traditional owner knowledge
3. Catchment condition
4. Hydrological data
5. Missing definition
6. Water Regulation 2002

Issues analysis

1. Information supporting assessment of natural values in declaration documents

Issue:

- *Insufficient credible evidence was presented in the overview report to support the states view that the nominated wild rivers had “all or almost all of their natural values intact”.*
- *The department failed to take into account a number of factors and failed to undertake sufficient research or analysis in properly determining some of the natural values claimed in the nomination documents.*
- *A basin wide assessment rather than a river by river assessment was undertaken and information about the natural values of one catchment was used incorrectly to support the nomination of another.*
- *The department gave little or no regard to several relevant studies’, including that of the 2001 report The Natural Heritage Significance of Cape York Peninsula by Mackey, Nix and Hitchcock (the Natural Heritage Report).*
- *Information in the overview report was not accurate.*

Response:

There was some confusion about the role of the overview report and an implied desire for a scientific/technical report, or a literature review, rather than a consultation document.

In the *Purpose of this overview report* section, it was clearly stated that the overview report provided background and summary information. The overview report is a consultation document which aims primarily to provide stakeholders from a variety of backgrounds, with information about the potential implications of a declaration being made. The overview report makes no claim to being a scientific or technical report, nor does it claim to be a literature review.

The purposes, content and structure of the overview report reflect previous comments from stakeholders, who have consistently argued that the overview report should focus on an explanation of implications, and that the information must be presented in an appropriate language for the audience. An in-depth technical or scientific analysis was not considered appropriate in a document aimed at such a wide spectrum of stakeholders. Likewise, a detailed literature review was not considered an appropriate consultation tool.

Summary information about the wild river area's natural values is also included in the overview reports. This summary information describes what is meant by each relevant natural value referred to in the declaration proposal.

It was argued that an information summary about the wild river area's natural values was insufficient. Also that presenting a summary suggested no robust analysis of natural values was undertaken on a river by river basis.

It is acknowledged that information about individual rivers and their catchments in Cape York is limited. However the state considered a wide range of factors and available information in assessing the natural values of the wild rivers and their catchments (in-stream, near stream and catchment wide factors) including:

- overall native vegetation conditions as described by the Queensland herbarium remnant ecosystem mapping
- relevant scientific reports, including the Cape York Peninsula Land Use Study (CYPLUS) and the National Land and Water Resources Audit 2002, amongst others
- a wide range of datasets to assist in mapping and assessing condition, including:
 - drainage data
 - terrain data
 - wetland mapping
 - groundwater assessments
 - geology mapping
 - aerial and satellite imagery, including flood mapping data
 - fish habitat areas
 - CYPLUS data
 - Digital Cadastral Data Base
 - mining tenements
 - infrastructure data
- existing volumes of water extraction
- presence, or absence of artificial in-stream barriers to wildlife movement such as dams, weirs and barrages
- level of in-stream infrastructure—ports, jetties, etc.
- level of in-stream dredging
- level of intensive agriculture and associated soil disturbance, likelihood of pesticide or herbicide application
- any artificial changes to river channel morphology, stream realignment, 'channelisation', etc.
- level of in-stream quarry material extraction
- presence of other environmentally relevant activities with known environmental impacts such as abattoirs, aquaculture, intensive feedlotting, chemical or asphalt manufacturing, gas oil or plastic manufacturing, electricity generation, paper manufacturing, etc.
- urban development levels (also population density and likely "environmental footprint")—residential development, industrial development, etc.
- changes across the catchments affecting substrate permeability, particularly tarred roads, etc.
- gross landscape topographical changes
- the presence of structure impeding overland flow paths
- levels of mining development

- riparian habitat continuity along the whole river length
- comparison of riparian width with other river systems of similar ecological and environmental character
- estuarine assessments
- the intensity of land use, including stocking rates
- near-shore ecological characteristics—presence of sea grass beds as indicative of water quality
- gross changes in catchment vegetation type—has a large percentage of the catchment changes from rainforest to open grassland
- changes in vegetation density
- weed infestation and feral animal populations.

As a consultation report it was considered appropriate to eliminate unnecessary repetition when findings were consistent across all wild rivers and their catchments. Rather than repeating similar information for each wild river, the overview report summarised these findings, including key points that applied to all wild rivers and their catchments.

The results of consultation and submissions generally suggest these assessments were correct. However it was raised that feral animals such as pigs have significantly impacted on the environment in the area. Also, specific examples of impacts were provided including;

- historic clearing of areas within wild river catchments
- information about one property that had been subjected to historically high stocking rates
- locally extensive infestations of weed species such as sicklepod.

Consideration was given to the likely impact on an overall assessment of ‘naturalness’ of the river system as a result of the issues raised, for example assessments were carried out of:

- the potential impacts of historic changes to the density of woody species in a predominantly open grassland ecosystem
- evidence or suggestions of resulting sheet or gully erosion that would imply extensive changes to sedimentation levels, bed morphology, etc.
- the likely occurrence intervals of cultivation of the soil
- patterns of regrowth clearing subsequent to initial clearing
- the likely overall impacts of pest species (flora and fauna) on natural values overall, including hydrological processes, geomorphic processes, water quality, riparian function, and wildlife corridor function.

This assessment did not provide any evidence of broadscale impacts, though it is recognised that there will be localised impacts, on the condition of the catchments.

The section on natural values in the overview report also included brief descriptive information, referenced to indicate general support for an assertion. The source of the information may not explicitly make that assertion itself.

It was interpreted that analyses about natural values relied solely on the basis of these references—and as references often related only to one specific wild river or its catchment, that decisions about nominating one wild river were being based only on information relating to another.

It was also suggested that all information (or ‘evidence’) supporting wild river nominations—as well as conflicting information which did not support the nominations—should have been presented in the overview report. Again this was not considered appropriate for a consultation document.

All available information was given consideration in making decisions. Where data appeared to contradict other available information, a more detailed analysis of underlying assumptions or potential dataset deficiencies was undertaken. Where possible, discussions with relevant authors were undertaken.

While the government acknowledges some minor editorial problems, it was suggested that a number of studies were ignored. Suggestions that the document was inaccurate and did not take into account information in particular Commonwealth studies are incorrect. For example it was suggested that no recognition was given to the Catchment Disturbance Index from the 2001 report *The Natural Heritage Significance of Cape York Peninsula*, which suggested extensive modification or disturbance to a number of river systems in the Stewart Basin.

The department had previously reviewed the catchment disturbance index, and had found limitations in this data. Further, that it could not be considered in isolation and should be viewed in the context of the report in which it is contained. The report advised that, in the absence of the unavailable information, the data set relies on a complex methodology and information provided by the CYPLUS data set which was indicative only. The use of this indicative data in calculating the catchment disturbance index (CDI) may have resulted in the CDI also being indicative at best and not a true reflection of the situation on the ground.

Overall, though the *Natural Heritage Significance of Cape York Peninsula Report* supported the assertions in the overview report about the high degree of natural integrity throughout Cape York. It mentions that key hydrological processes remain intact in Cape York, with the entire function of catchments unimpeded from watershed ridges through to coastal wetlands, and that the streams of Cape York have been minimally disturbed by the works of human activity.

Limited detailed information about the natural values of the rivers on Cape York Peninsula exists. In many cases the CYPLUS is the most recent suite of published information available for use. This information is now over 10 years old. However, the use of this information along with the available datasets and mapping tools, and collection of on-ground information and expert opinion has provided a solid basis for the information in the overview reports.

2. No use of traditional owner knowledge

Issue:

- *In preparing nomination material no advantage was taken of the knowledge of traditional owners.*

Response:

Discussions with individual traditional owners, relevant Aboriginal councils and peak Indigenous organisations have been ongoing since 2006. Coordinators discussed proposed mapping of the wild river areas with traditional owners both prior to declaration proposal release and during the consultation period. Submissions were invited about the proposals and included an invitation to discuss particulars of the natural values of river systems in the area.

Additionally, the Balkanu Cape York Development Organisation was engaged to facilitate consultation and provide assistance to traditional owners with the development of submissions, providing an opportunity for traditional owners to contribute first hand knowledge about the river systems proposed.

3. Catchment condition

Issue:

- *Catchment condition should be assessed as a relevant natural value. It was suggested that since the Wild Rivers Act states that the purpose of the Wild Rivers Act is to be achieved by amongst other things “treating a wild river and it’s catchment as a single entity...” the condition of the catchment should be considered as a relevant natural value.*

Response:

Catchment condition is assessed, and in particular, the likely impacts of the catchment condition on the natural values of the wild rivers. The evidence suggests that the catchment conditions for these areas are largely intact, and therefore the impacts are expected to be negligible. The Breakfast Creek catchment has had some disturbance, particularly on the Silver Plains property, but the majority of the catchment area is in a highly intact state. Though it is likely that there have been localised impacts as a result of some historical vegetation clearing in parts of the basin, it is highly unlikely that these have had an overall negative affect on the natural values of the wild river.

The declaration manages development within the catchment to preserve the natural values of the wild river.

Catchment condition, though, is not assessed as a natural value of the wild river.

4. Hydrological data

Issue:

- *Insufficient hydrological data was included in the overview report, and there were concerns that the volume of unallocated water proposed to be made available was greater than 1 per cent of the mean annual flow.*

Response:

As stated earlier, the overview report is not a scientific document, but rather a consultation document. Therefore, it was deemed inappropriate to provide large data sets in the document. Suffice to say that all of the unallocated water volumes are less than 1 per cent mean annual flow of the wild river area. In determining licenses to access the unallocated water the chief executive must consider the impacts on the natural values of the wild river.

5. Missing definition

Issue:

- *A definition of state or regional significance (in relation to the strategic water reserve) should have been included*

Response:

The definition has been included in the final declaration.

6. Water Regulation 2002

Issue:

- *The amendment to the Water Regulation 2002, which stated the process for the granting of unallocated water, was not available for comment during the consultation/submission period.*

Response:

The process for granting water is an administrative process. The amendment to the *Water Regulation 2002* will provide a standard process to be followed in most instances throughout Queensland for the release of unallocated water. The process is not specific to wild river declarations.

As the relevant provisions for the amendment to the *Water Regulation 2002* are not yet in effect, the process for granting water is set out as schedule 4 of the declaration, this process closely follows the model of the proposed regulation amendment.

Further action

The department will endeavour to continually improve the information provided to stakeholders regarding declaration proposals whilst recognising that technical documents are not suitable for as public consultation documents.

2.4.7 Consultation

Issues raised

1. Consultation on the Wild Rivers Bill
2. Involvement of traditional owners
3. Consultation approach
4. Support
5. Post declaration engagement

Issues analysis

1. Consultation on Wild Rivers Bill

Issue:

- *Consultation on the original Wild Rivers Bill should have been more extensive before it was passed through parliament in 2005.*

Response:

Many submissions were received on the Wild Rivers Bill and modification of the Bill was undertaken in response to concerns raised. The final Bill received bipartisan support in parliament. Continued consultation on the implications of the Wild Rivers Act has occurred from 2005. Prior to the declaration proposals being released consultation activities in affected communities was undertaken to provide background information about the Wild Rivers Act. Information about the Wild Rivers Act was also integrated with consultation about the specifics of the declaration proposals when they were released.

2. Involvement of traditional owners

Issue:

- *Traditional owners should have been extensively involved in wild rivers policy and declaration development*

Response:

The wild rivers program has a state-wide application and its development has included a range of stakeholders, including traditional owner peak bodies, business representatives and individuals. The consultation process for the declaration proposals focused resources on ensuring that traditional owners were engaged.

3. Consultation approach

Issue:

- *Consultation should have been more extensive and some stakeholders were either not made aware of the declaration proposals, or given insufficient time to appropriately respond.*
- *Some traditional owners consulted may not have been the correct ones.*
- *Consultation should have included more public meetings.*
- *Supporting information such as fact sheets were not suitable for stakeholders and contained inconsistencies.*
- *Some stakeholders requested a 'round table style' discussions to resolve issues prior to any declarations being made.*

Response:

The consultation approach was developed in accordance with requirements of the Wild Rivers Act. As described in detail in section 1.4, a wide range of avenues were pursued to ensure that all stakeholders were appropriately engaged in the process. These avenues included public notices and correspondence with individual land owners and representative bodies to inform of proposals, written and pictorial supporting material, Wild river presentations were given and feedback sought at a number of public meetings and extensive face to face meetings were conducted with peak body representatives, and members of affected communities, including individuals, families and business interests.

The government made every effort to seek out and engage all affected stakeholders including the engagement of Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation (Balkanu) to assist in the identification of affected traditional owners and facilitate consultation with traditional owners. Through interagency advice and the advice of Balkanu, local councils and members of the community, a comprehensive list of stakeholders and stakeholder groups was developed. This was continually revised, improved, and utilised to ensure comprehensive discussions were undertaken with as many stakeholders as possible.

A range of supporting information has been developed to assist all stakeholders in understanding the implications of the proposal. However the government is committed to continual improvement and has undertaken a review of this information especially the consistency between fact sheets and the use of appropriate language, as suggested.

It was not considered appropriate for only certain stakeholders to be included in a post declaration round table forum. The results of meetings with stakeholders and all submissions

were considered and analysed. Further clarification was sought on submissions where necessary.

4. Support

Issue:

- *Funds/resources should have been provided to facilitate submissions.*
- *Sitting fees should have been made available to participants in consultation meetings.*

Response:

Consistent with other relevant government programs, local governments were not provided funding specifically to assist in making submissions on the wild rivers program. However the government does provide general funding to assist those councils with little or no rate-based income to carry out the functions of the office.

In the vast majority of cases, financial reimbursement for meeting attendees was not required; departmental officers travelled to communities, existing meeting forums were utilised where possible and people were not required to stay overnight.

5. Post declaration engagement

Issue:

- *Stakeholders should continue to be engaged following the declarations being enacted—clear information on benefits and extent of restrictions should continue to be provided to stakeholders.*

Response:

The government is committed to continuing to provide appropriate information to all stakeholders affected by the wild river declaration. This will include information about the potential benefits and extent of restrictions. Communities as well as local government are encouraged to capitalise on the opportunities that the declaration provides.

Further action

The government will continue to engage with stakeholders in proposed wild river areas, providing relevant information and seeking their views on the declaration proposals.

2.4.8 Future of Wild Rivers

Issues raised

1. Commitment to ongoing program—further proposals of identified potential wild river systems on Cape York Peninsula
2. Declaration of Watson, Ward and Kendall rivers
3. Potential wild rivers outside of Cape York Peninsula
4. Misdirection of resources

Issues analysis

1. Commitment to ongoing program—further proposals of identified potential wild river systems on Cape York Peninsula

Issue:

- *Formal commitment is required to propose all potential identified wild river areas on Cape York Peninsula*

Response:

The government remains committed to proposing the potential wild river areas on Cape York that were identified in the 2004 election commitment—a commitment that was re-affirmed at both the 2006 and 2009 elections. To date, nine wild river areas are declared, including three on Cape York Peninsula, with a declaration proposal for the Wenlock Basin currently available for public comment. The remaining river systems on Cape York Peninsula will be dealt with by the end of 2010.

2. Declaration of Watson, Ward and Kendall rivers

Issue:

- *The Watson, Ward and Kendall Rivers should have been proposed at the same time as the Archer, Lockhart and Stewart river systems. Will these be proposed in the future?*

Response:

Timeframes for nomination of the potential wild river areas was determined in consultation with the Cape York Tenure Resolution Implementation Group. The agreed sequence of proposals reflects the requests of Indigenous stakeholders to be made fully aware of wild river implications during land tenure negotiations. The Premier has committed to:

- finalising the consultation process now under way on the Wenlock Basin proposed wild river area this year
- commencing consultation on the Ducie, Watson, Olive-Pascoe and Jacky Jacky river basins in 2009, and
- proposing the Jardine, Holroyd, Coleman and Jeannie river basins in 2010.

As the Ward River is located within the Watson Basin, and the Kendall River is located in the Holroyd Basin, these two rivers will be considered when these basins are nominated.

3. Potential wild rivers outside of Cape York Peninsula

Issues:

- *A number of rivers outside Cape York Peninsula, such as the Paroo and Cooper systems should also be proposed as wild rivers.*

Response:

Six wild river areas have already been declared outside of Cape York Peninsula, including four areas in the Gulf of Carpentaria, as well as Fraser and Hinchinbrook Islands. At the 2009 election, the government gave a commitment to propose the Georgina, Diamantina and Cooper Creek basins for wild river status.

4. Misdirection of resources

Issue:

- *Funds directed at the wild rivers program could be better used in rehabilitating degraded river systems in Cape York Peninsula (e.g. Annan and Endeavour Rivers).*

Response:

The wild rivers program aims to preserve those river systems that have all, or almost all, of their natural values intact. Experience in other parts of Australia has shown that it is extremely expensive to rehabilitate degraded river systems. It is far more cost effective in the mid to long term to protect existing natural values than to rehabilitate or seek to replace lost natural values. The wild rivers program reflects the need to prioritise and target expenditure effectively. Effective management of river systems involves first ensuring those rivers currently in very good condition are not further degraded.

The rehabilitation of degraded river systems continues to also be carried out through government programs as well as through natural resource management groups and river improvement trusts who continue to be assisted through state and federal government funding.

3. Other changes

3.1 Environmentally relevant activities

Amendments to the Environmental Protection Act and the new Environmental Protection Regulation 2008 came into effect on 1 January 2009. The amendments included changes to section 73AA of the Environmental Protection Act which deals with environmentally relevant activities (ERAs) in wild river areas. The amendments gave effect to new terminology and definitions used to describe ERAs in the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008.

Sections 63-65 in the final declaration (which correspond to sections 66-68 of the declaration proposal) reflect these amendments. The overall regulatory effect of the amendments is no different to that prior to the amendments being made.

3.2 Process for granting unallocated water from reserves

Section 15 of the declaration proposal stated that the process for granting unallocated water will be in accordance with requirements prescribed by a regulation to be made. It was intended that these requirements be detailed in amendments to be made to the *Water Regulation 2002* prior to the declaration being finalised.

At the time of declaration, the requirements had not yet been included in the *Water Regulation 2002*. Therefore the process has been included as Schedule 4 of the Stewart Basin Wild River Declaration as permitted under section 14(3) of the Wild Rivers Act.

Schedule—submitter names

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| A & M Droste | Aleksandra Kopozewska | Amelia Seymour |
| A Beard | Alex Clarke | Ami Reid |
| A Bending | Alex Crisp | Amy Abikhair |
| A Delaney | Alex Davies | Amy Cupitt |
| A Farr | Alex Garay | Amy Griffiths |
| A Goudie | Alex Giddings | Amy Harlib |
| A Hampton | Alex Gofton | Amy Hill |
| A Herring | Alex Jespersen | Amy Jennings |
| A Hiddink | Alex McWhirter | Ana Leigh Tucker |
| A Smythe | Alex Wallman | Anastasia Delaporta |
| A&M&J Grimes & C West | Alexander Middleton | Anastasia Foster-Brady |
| Aaron Carter | Alexander Nettleback | Andrea Gianniny |
| Aaron Hollins | Alexandra E Lean | Andrea Smythe |
| Abdullah Kosrel | Alexandra Ennis | Andrea Symes |
| Abraham Omeenyo | Alexandra Ginger | Andrew Beswick |
| Adam Gibson | Alexandra Townsend | Andrew Black |
| Adam Quinlivan | Alexis Simmonds | Andrew Bulter |
| Adam Walker | Alfonsina Nuzum | Andrew Clough |
| Adam Cavallaro | Ali Baker | Andrew Coe |
| Adam Cooksley | Alice Beauchamp | Andrew Douglas |
| Adam Crowther | Alicia Carter | Andrew Finlay |
| Adam Etherington | Alicia Wolverson | Andrew French |
| Adam Griffiths | Alison Clarke | Andrew Kopp |
| Adam Holloywood | Alison Dale | Andrew Martin |
| Adam Moxey | Alison Fenton | Andrew Murray |
| Adam S. Hubert | Alison Kelman | Andrew Riguecini |
| Adam Vogel | Alison Liddy | Andrew Steel |
| Adam Watson | Alison Nowland | Andrew Thelander |
| Adam, Catherine & Christ | Alison Oldfield | Andrew Turner |
| Kilpatrick | Alison Waller | Andrew Worland |
| Adela Brent | Alistair Hayes | Andy Jones |
| Adrian Bandiera | Alithea Seemann | Andy Parkin |
| Adrian Mozejko | Allan Creek | Andy Sinel |
| Adrian Stavovy | Allan Robbins | Aneira Nye Elwin |
| AG DeCarne | Allan Thomson | Ange Barnes |
| Aiba Godwin | Allegra Robinson | Angel Upton |
| Alan Atterton | Allison Arndt | Angela Back |
| Alan Birkinshaw | Allison Hoad | Angela Brace |
| Alan Boyd | Allison Willis | Angela Brooks |
| Alan Casswell | Allistair Walpole | Angela Davies |
| Alan Creek | Ally Fitzpatrick | Angela Dean |
| Alan Deering | Allye Sinclair | Angela Eads |
| Alan Ekdon-Ben | Alysha Delfino | Angela Lausdown |
| Alan Falls | Alyssa Faulkner | Angela Sunley |
| Alan Grenier | Alyssa White | Angela Wichmann |
| Alan Hayward | Amanda Cowell | Angelica Gardner |
| Alan Outhred | Amanda Dunne | Angelo Falco |
| Alan Stancombe | Amanda Fox | Angie Jones-Field |
| Alan Stewart | Amanda Geary | Angus Ainsworth |
| Alan Vaughan | Amanda Lang | Angus Green |
| Alana Barry | Amanda Osborn | Anita Stephenson |
| Alanah Buckley | Amber Gattera | Ann McAlpin |
| Alastair Smith | Amber Jenkins | Ann McKennney |
| Alberto Proietta | Amelia Easdale | Ann Peach |
| Aleisha Muir | Amelia Elgar | Ann Prior |
| Aleks Podolakin | Amelia Giles | Ann Robinson |

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| Ann Yeatman | B Cooke | Bill Fernhill |
| Anna Bruvel | B Humphryis | Bill Moorhead |
| Anna Chapman | B.E. Kilpatrick | Billy Colless |
| Anna Clynes | Barbara Blacoe | Blair Cross |
| Anna Kaganer | Barbara Davies | Blanche Baudouin |
| Anna Krautz | Barbara Fletcher | Bo Boulot |
| Anna Lee Mraz Bartra | Barbara Guthrie | Bob Gould |
| Anna Ludowici | Barbara Hannan | Bob Noble |
| Anna Maskiell | Barbara Holtz | Bobby Stewart |
| Anna Murray | Barbara Kose | Bonita Frank |
| Anna Sanderson | Barbara Leys | Boyd Kyle |
| Anna Shera | Barbara Meers | Brad Foster |
| Anna Ward | Barbara Pollak | Bradley & Modena Allan |
| Annabel McLisky | Barbara Prideaux | Bradley Foster |
| Annalou Oakland | Barry Bayfield | Bradley Harkin |
| Anne Trim | Barry Jackson | Bradley Worland |
| Anne Beven | Barry Port | Brayden Cook |
| Anne Downes | Barry Strubber | Breanna Ehrlick |
| Anne Marie Kotlik | Barry Talbot-Smith | Breanna Heidke |
| Anne Marsden | Bartek Odias | Bren Hayes |
| Anne McAlpine | Bea Ortega | Brenda Muntz |
| Anne Stephens | Beautrice Koongotema | Brendan Doyle |
| Anne Williams | Bec Butterfly | Brendan Gulson |
| Anneka Ferguson | Beck McMahon | Brendan Moar |
| Anne-Marie Kinnane | Beck Sheffield-Brotherton | Brendan Shoebridge |
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| Annette Price | Belinda Hodgkins | Brenton Charles |
| Annie Bird | Belinda Joyce | Bret Taylor |
| Annie Boon | Belinda Voll | Brett Caporn |
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| Annie O'moon-Browning | Ben Flinrtham | Brett Hedger |
| Annie Otness | Ben Higgins | Brett Leis |
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| Antonella Curcio | Benjamin Bowly | Brian McLoughlin |
| Antonio Fabris | Benjamin Eastwood | Brian Moran |
| Anu Malaviya | Benjamin Peelman | Brian Williams |
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| Armando Lanzini | Bernadette Wright | Brock Newbery |
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| Ashley Roberts | Bernice Moore | Bronwen Murray-Prior |
| Atillea Razali | Bernice Rutherford | Bronwyn Davey |
| Audrey Deheinzelin | Beth Beynon | Bronwyn De Bondi |
| Aurora Huddleston | Beth Tarilton | Bronwyn Gwyther |
| Aurukun Uniting Church, Council of Elders | Betty Corby | Bronwyn Hookey |
| Aurukun Wetland Charters | Betty Franklin | Bronwyn Lewis |
| Australian Conservation Foundation | Betty Modric | Bronwyn Severn |
| Australian Human Rights Commission | Betty Young | Brooke Henry |
| Aymeric Maudous | Bev Yen | Brooke Smith |
| Azariah Shertt | Bhoomi Redpath | Brooke Vogt |
| | Bianca & Jeremy Brookes | Bruce Day |
| | Bianche Danastas | Bruce Dover |
| | Bill Bowd | Bruce Dwyer |

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| Bruce Greenfield | Carolyn Parker | Chris Tweddell |
| Bruce Hogben | Carolyn Stanmore | Chris Wood |
| Bruce Holtom | Carrie Rieden | Christabel Mithcell |
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| Carly Jones | Charlotte Landini | Claire Loveband |
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| Carmen Riordan | Cheree Welsteed | Clare Whyte |
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| Carol Elliott | Cheryl Adam | Clarence Peinkinna |
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| Carol Vogler | Cheryl Crohaw | Cliff Greet |
| Carol Walden | Cheryl Pascoe | Clint Jury |
| Carole Stanford | Cheryl Voisin | Clive Brown |
| Caroline Bayer | Chris & Andrew Froude | Colette Nicot |
| Caroline Blakers | Chris Ayres | Colin Apelt |
| Caroline Le Couteur | Chris Barnes | Colin Hamilton |
| Caroline Lurie | Chris French | Colin Sicock-Delaney |
| Caroline Peinkinna | Chris King | Colin Tuft |
| Caroline Riseley | Chris Maltby | Colin Walpole |
| Caroline Williams | Chris Moon | Colin White |
| Carolyn Bussey | Chris Oakshott | Colleen Lovett |
| Carolyn Canham | Chris Paatti | Colleen Muriel |
| Carolyn Ingvarson | Chris Prior | Colyn Saal |
| Carolyn Lee | Chris Purdie | Coral Robinson |

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| Crystal Ellis | David George | Dennis Dulgan |
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| Dave Graham | Dee Day | Doris Graham |
| Dave Lamb | Deirdre Gardiner | Dorothy Welton |
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| David Berg | Delphi Bryant | Doug O'Neil |
| David Bradley | Denis Giasli | Doug Spoor |
| David Brumley | Denise Chritensen | Doug Thomas |

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| Douglas Brown | Emma Chaffer | Flora Weinman |
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| Eddie Fieldings | Emma-Jane Eeles | Francis Flannery |
| Eddie Kollmans | Eric Finley | Frank Johnson |
| Edna Glenn | Eric George | Frank Klein |
| Edward Butler | Eric Lehtonen | Frank McDonald |
| Edwin Buivids | Eric Manners | Frank Richards |
| Edwin S. Ludke | Erica Bear | Fred Strack |
| Edy Gysling | Erica Siegel | Friedrich Nath |
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| Eleanor Schulz | Esteban Saborio | Gael Campbell-Young |
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| Elizabeth Bingham-Peterdi | Evy Hoge | Gary Bennell |
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| Elizabeth Mitchell | Fay Burthem | Gary Ward |
| Elizabeth Runko | Felicity Wade | Gary Whitley |
| Elizabeth Shaw | Felipe Donoso | Gav Scott |
| Elizabeth Szacsavay | Felix Burkhard | Gavin Port |
| Elk Anstey | Fernanda Adame | Gavin Taylor |
| Elke Kerr | Ferris Lishe | Gaye White |
| Elli Storey | Fiona Austen | Gayle Gowen |
| Ellie Hofman | Fiona Bond | Gayle Moses |
| Elliott Orr | Fiona Brown | Gayle Steger |
| Elly Potter | Fiona Clarke | Geert-Willem Raak |
| Eloise Breskvar | Fiona Coe | Gemma Salmon |
| Elsa Silva | Fiona Darroch | Gemma Tillack |
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| Emily Flowers | Fiona Mulvaney | Geoff Sanderson |
| Emily McMillan | Fiona Stewart | Geoffrey Somerville |
| Emily Oades | Fiona Streader | George Devereaux |
| Emily Smith | Fiona Van Towsey | George Donnelly |
| Emily Zitkevicius | Fionnuala Maye | George Fraser |
| Emma Baker | Fiorello Fihoe | George Love |
| Emma Campbell | Fleur Blum | Georgette Courtenay |
| Emma Capp | Flora Aynsley | Georgina Buckingham |

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| Geraldine & Robert Johnson | H Dunstan | Hester Dingle |
| Geraldine Hambrook | H M Xtilley | Hester Goedhart |
| Gerd Herrmann | H Schmidt | Hilary Berman |
| Gerry Mullane | H Thomas | Hilary Smith |
| Gert Fengler | H. Ginn | Hilary Webster |
| Gethin Hill | Haley Burgess | Hilda Nataprawira |
| Gethin Morgan | Hamish Longbottom | Hilkka Karsihäs |
| Gianluigi Boca | Hanna Kastner | Holli McPherson |
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| Gillian Hunter | Hannah Woolhouse | Hugh Dundson |
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| Giovanni Favaro | Hayley Close | I Johnstone |
| Gitte Kragh | Hayley Crossing | I Panell |
| Glen Cook | Hayley Kearney | Ian Lock |
| Glen Thompson | Hayley Smith | Ian MacLagan |
| Glenice Ballantyne | Hayley Troupe | Ian Melville |
| Glenn Humphreys | Hazel Green | Ian Moffat |
| Glenn Mead | Heath Stone | Ian Morris |
| Glenn Osboldstone | Heather Cousland | Ian Simpson |
| Glenn Rayner | Heather Laurie | Ian Smith |
| Glenn Winters | Heather Leech | Ian Stathis |
| Glenys Davies | Heather Purvis | Ian Williams |
| Gloria Clueuer | Heather Ryerson | Ifeanna Tooth |
| Gordon Peter | Heather Scott | Ing Toh |
| Gordon Young | Heather Turner | Inga Kamps |
| Govinda LeGuinio | Heather Walters | Ingeborg Fina |
| Grace Amato | Heather Whitelk | Ingeburg Habicht |
| Grace Hamilton | Heather Zeppel | Ingegerd Torsander Beckman |
| Grace McCaughey | Heidi Jones | Ingrid Crossner |
| Graeme Aitken | Heidi Michael | Ingrid Hoffman |
| Graeme Jessup | Heinz Buscher | Ingrid Horton |
| Graeme Kennedy | Helen Aitken-Kuhnen | Ingrid Rosemann |
| Graeme Law | Helen Atkinson | Ingrid Shaw |
| Graeme Northfield | Helen Auld | Ingrid Williams |
| Graeme Oxley | Helen Boyd | Ioseba Amartrian Losa |
| Graeme Stevens | Helen Ferry | Irene Laifos |
| Graeme White | Helen Haska | Ireneusz Golka |
| Graham Hull | Helen Heathwood | Isabel Bryce |
| Graham King | Helen Jackson | Isabelle Robberechts |
| Graham Wade | Helen Kirkup | Isla Grundy |
| Graham Walker | Helen Kvelde | Isobel Howse |
| Grahame Rogerson | Helen Lynes | Isobel Jolly |
| Grant Aldous | Helen Macinnes | Issac Shapiro |
| Grant Whiteford | Helen Mc Cormick | Itzel Fernandez |
| Greg Burrows | Helen O'Grady | Ivan Boshoff |
| Greg Evans | Helen Parsons | Ivana Sesar |
| Greg Howell | Helen Renard | Izabella Negro-Caselberg |
| Greg Larkins | Helen Richards | J Ayton |
| Greg Mc Millian | Helen Soulsby | J Brits |
| Greg Newton | Helen Stapleton | J Friesew |
| Gregg Jacobos | Helen Whitfield | J Hall |
| Gregg Sonnenburg | Helena Dijkstra | J McDonnell |
| Greta Werner | Helena Dworeck | J Nott |

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| J Staines | Jane McGennissen | Jennifer Neil |
| J Stirling | Jane Modric | Jennifer Pinter |
| J Wood | Jane Polkinghorne | Jennifer Pritchard |
| J. Brook | Jane Rawson | Jennifer West |
| J. Capozzelli | Jane Sexton | Jennifer Wilson |
| J. Stuart McDonald | Jane Suttle | Jennifer Young |
| J. Williams | Jane Tait | Jenny Calder |
| J.E.P. Mortimer | Jane Williams | Jenny Clarke |
| J.L. Doecke | Janelle Briggs | Jenny Crisp |
| Jaamy Slarks | Janelle Wood | Jenny Cronin |
| Jacinta Allen | Janet Dearden | Jenny Ellis |
| Jacinta Daley | Janet Hart | Jenny Francis |
| Jack Forgan | Janet Hoye | Jenny Lawrence |
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| Jack Thieme | Janet Koongotema | Jenny Sharpe |
| Jack Whiddon | Janet Lisha | Jenny W Siddall |
| Jackie Brown | Janet Messner | Jeremy Dowdeswell |
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| Jacob Houston | Janet Walder | Jeremy Rigby |
| Jacqueline Blomberg | Janet Watterson | Jeremy Taylor |
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| Jacqueline Kiewa | Jasmin Engel | Jerome Dalton |
| Jacqueline Nance Loney | Jasmine Amie-Fong | Jerry Dee |
| Jacqueline Turner | Jason Carmichael | Jess & Jacque Genilou |
| Jacque Lyon | Jason Plummer | Jess Abrahams |
| Jacquilyn Torrisi | Jason Rose | Jess Schoeman |
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| Jade Dean | Jason Webber | Jesse Reynolds |
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| Jake Hazzard | Jay Lazarus | Jessica Cain |
| Jakob Scheaker | Jaya Breen | Jessica Ernst |
| James Banes | Jayarama Bryan | Jessica Ignjic |
| James Brown | Jaymie Maley-Bailey | Jessica Leinster |
| James Cruickshank | Jean Claude Ritchie | Jessica Shipard |
| James Frazer | Jean Lawrie | Jessica Taylor |
| James Hansen | Jean Wilde | Jill Eden |
| James Lilburne | Jedith Holt | Jill Laurent |
| James McEldoy | Jeff Bailey | Jill Sanguinetti |
| James Pryce-Davies | Jeff Pinchen | Jill St John |
| James Richardson | Jeff Poole | Jillian Zamora |
| James Sprat | Jemina Wilson | Jim DeBusch |
| James Worth | Jen Black | Jim Dyson |
| Jamie Dahill | Jenell Tudehope | Jim Fitzpatrick |
| Jamie Ernst | Jeniene Eales | Jim Newbery |
| Jan Buckley | Jenifer Andrew | Jimmy Peter |
| Jan Flemming | Jenifer Gibson | Jo Bartholonem |
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| Jan Johns | Jenni Salkavich | Jo Cruickshanks |
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| Joanna Smartt | Jonathan Nicholls | Justin Eldin |
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| Jocelyn Bowden | Joseph Bircckhead | K & R Arnott |
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| Joe Cox | Josh Prideaux | K White |
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| Joel Hissink | Joshua Abbott | Kaitlin Graham |
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| John McGuckin | Julia Lawson | Karen Tingay |
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| John Stacey | Julie Kruger | Karolina Trapp |
| John Stanley | Julie Lock | Karon Dutton |
| John Stowell | Julie Logan | Kat Anderson |
| John Visser | Julie Oneil | Kat Grigg |
| John Weatherman | Julie Swartz | Kate Babic |
| John White | Julie Weston | Kate Blandon |
| John Williams | Julien Tempone | Kate Charlton |
| Jon Neck | June Dwyer | Kate Gaylard |
| Jon Stocker | Junenell Dolbel | Kate Gordon-Addison |

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| Kate Hammond | Kelly Scott | Kirsty Wilson |
| Kate Harley | Kelly Southee | Kjell Kuhne |
| Kate Holmes | Kelly Thirgood | Klaus Uhlenhut |
| Kate Jury | Kelly Whittle | Konstantina Sotiriou |
| Kate Masci | Ken Coppard | Korey Moon |
| Kate Osborne | Ken Foster | Kris Schmah |
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| Kate Vinen | Ken Stenhouse | Kristal Gilmour |
| Katerina Cazanis | Kenneth Lapointe | Kristen Lang |
| Kath Kelly | Keri James | Kristen Whitson |
| Katharine Bell | Kerri Finlay | Kristy Taney |
| Katherine Babiak | Kerri Foxcroft | Krystal -Ann Wilson |
| Katherine Cooke | Kerrie Fraser | Kumar Tamrang |
| Katherine Davies | Kerrod Wells | Kyana-Lili Pearson |
| Katherine Downs | Kerry Brogan | Kylee Woods |
| Katherine Gould | Kerry Grimwade | Kylie Alexandra |
| Katherine Kristof | Kerry Knappe | Kylie Burke |
| Katherine Mahon | Kerry McNeil | Kylie Gillis |
| Katherine Nairn | Kerry Phelan | Kylie Jones |
| Katherine Thomas | Kerry Rankine | Kylie Moir |
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| Kathleen Dawson | Kerryn O'Conner | Kylie Rosas |
| Kathleen Earsman | Kerstin Goksoyr-Nordang | Kylie Shipi |
| Kathleen Maloney | Kerynne Birch | Kylie Stadelon |
| Kathleen Rundall | Ketih Brown | Kyra Miles |
| Kathleen Sammon | Kev O'Callaghan | L A Roy |
| Kathryn Brown | Kevin Calrson | L Bourke |
| Kathryn Dark | Kevin Evans | L Conolly |
| Kathryn Farr | Kevin Huckstep | L Kain |
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| Kathryn Higgs | Kevin Liddy | L Lazzaroni |
| Kathryn McCabe | Kevin Marcy | L Lombardi |
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| Katie Kiss | Kia Harris | Lachlan Kelly |
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| Katy Gerner | Kim Gill | Lance Turner |
| Kay Rodda | Kim Glover | Lani Imhof |
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| Kea Heeren | Kim Luckman | Lara Ruffinatto |
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| Lauren Moore | Lisa Hatter | Lyndal Spear |
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| Lauren Solca | Lisa Methven | Lyndsey Hamilton |
| Lauren Waters | Lisa Modrau | Lynette Cole |
| Laurie Freame | Lisa Montgomery | Lynette Cook |
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| Lee Foster | Council | M Cole |
| Lee Hickey | Lois Moore | M Lojek |
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| Leigh Marlow | Louis Jackson | M Wotherspoon |
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| Leith James | Louise Clayton | M.F. McAuliffe |
| Lena Rande | Louise Cross | Mabel Liddy |
| Lenford Matthew | Louise Gilmore | Madeleine James |
| Leo Fricker | Louise Gilmour | Madeleine Murray |
| Leon & Debbie Hodgson | Louise Greenslade | Madeleine Nunan |
| Leon Berghout | Louise Grgat | Maegan Connolly |
| Leon Salvador | Louise Kear | Maggie Scattini |
| Les Knapp | Louise Marks | Maguus Lawesson |
| Les Webb | Louise Mathews | Mairwen McQueen |
| Lesley Agar | Louise Morton | Mal Anderson |
| Lesley Burnett | Louise Russell | Malcolm Buckle |
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| Lesley Motley | Louise Tosetto | Malcolm Lorimer |
| Lesley Vick | Lucas Batton | Mallika Henry |
| Lex Namponam | Lucas Cafarella | Mandy Botterell |
| Lexie Webster | Lucas McFarlane | Mandy Marshall |
| LG Beck | Lucia Curcio | Mandy Soymonoff |
| Liam Lyttle | Lucia Fischer | Manjari Sunder |
| Liam Nicholas | Lucia Gibson | Manuela Brociner |
| Libby McAllister | Lucie Loane | Marc Gustini |
| Libby Roch | Lucy Crawford | Marcela Castro |
| Lil Williamson | Lucy Fraser | Marco Bantick |
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| Liona Myles | Lyn Hoffmann | Margaret Lund |
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| Margaret O'Dowd | Martin Down | Melanie Attard |
| Margaret Richardson | Martin Hodgson | Melanie Dixon |
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| Maria Goerg | Martina Corry | Melissa Manning |
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| Maria Parsons | Mary Braszell | Melissa Prowse |
| Maria Riedl | Mary Davis | Melissa Ruschin |
| Mariagracia Gonzalez | Mary Frey | Melissa Schulz |
| Marian De Fatima Albuguerque | Mary Rogers | Melissa Skuthorp |
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| Marie Clifton-Bassett | Mascia Breen | Merilyn Fenn |
| Marie Fisher | Matt Cowan | Merril Molloy |
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| Marie Mahoney | Matt O'keeffe | Michael Anthony |
| Marie Tarrant | Matt Small | Michael Bowden |
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| Marilyn Shrapnel | Matt Wood | Michael Chapman |
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| Marina Bistrin | Matthew Bell | Michael Finn |
| Marina Omana | Matthew Churchill | Michael Franz |
| Marion Gehrmann | Matthew Cook | Michael Hamm |
| Marion Rogers | Matthew Dimmock | Michael Hand |
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| Michelle Boyle | Natalie Jessup | Olive McIntosh |
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| Michelle Paterson | Natasha Egan | Olympia Cecora |
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| Mineral Sands Limited | Nerissa Heath & Max | Pam Allick |
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| Molly Clarke | Nicholas Carr | Parn Schindler |
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| Monique Senior | Nicola Barnard | Pat Mackle |
| Moona Perrotin | Nicola Dunstone | Pat Sprague |
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| Paulina Plaza | Prue Needham | Rene Sorensen |
| Pauline Cosgrove | Queensland Conservation | Reuben Wheat |
| Pauline Hauritz | (QCC), Cairns and Far North | Reyna Hadley |
| Pauline Norman | Environment Centre, Mackay | Rheana Campbell |
| Pavel Houzicka | Conservation Group | Rhidian Harrington |
| Pawel Kawalkowski | Queensland Resources Council | Rhona Eastment |
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| Peter Morris | Ras Lahaye | Robert Mann |
| Peter Owen | Ray Abdy | Robert Morwood |
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| Robert Zass | Rosmund & Barry White | Samantha Loveder |
| Robet Shaop | Ross Crozier | Samantha March |
| Robin Baillie | Ross Duncan | Samantha Proctor |
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| Roma Dix | S De Ridder | Sarah Micklewright |
| Romy Friedrich | S Dendle | Sarah Mitchell |
| Ron Berkelmans | S Gartrell | Sarah Reeve |
| Ron Landskroner | S Hi Damour | Sarah Thaner |
| Ron Nagorcka | S McGrath | Sarah Walsh |
| Ron Yunkaporta | S Moore | Sarah Watson |
| Ronan Lee | S Moore | Sarah Whitely |
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| Ros Demetries | S Williams | Sarah-Jane Loxton |
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| Rosalie Day | SA Mailenle | Sarina Agostino |
| Rosalind Chaffey | Sabina Crawley | Sasm Field |
| Rosalind Thieme | Sabrina Mc Carroll | Scot Gardner |
| Rose Boutros | Sally Chandler | Scot Mc Phee |
| Rose Brown | Sally Gordon | Scott Bilby |
| Rose Cemak | Sally Hearder | Scott Gordon |
| Rosemary Blemings | Sally James | Scott Hanna |
| Rosemary Elberry | Sally Lyttleton | Scott Pacey |
| Rosemary Glaisher | Sally Taylor | Scott Sewell |
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| Rosemary Niehus | Sam Green | Sean Marler |
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| Roshni Sharma | Sam Musumeci | Serena Cornhill |
| Rosi Myamun | Sam Rosen | Serena Fischer |
| Rosie Braye | Sam Stewart | Shahrin Leontarou |
| Rosie Burgess | Samala Bygraves | Shalini Naidoo |
| Roslyn Hogben | Samantha Kent | Shammi Chand |

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| Shane Jaenke | Sonia Mac Donald | Sue Kucharova |
| Shane Pyemont | Sonia Nuttman | Sue Lashko |
| Shane White | Sonia Wilkinson | Sue Lehtonen |
| Shantala McMaster | Sonja Zalar | Sue Mackey |
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| Sharna Aquilina | Sophia Koutorulis | Sue Taylor |
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| Sigmund Lloyd | Steven Hopley | Tahnee Creek |
| Simon Blake | Steven Kay | Tahnee Lawson |
| Simon Clarke | Steven Matthews | Takuji Soyama |
| Simon Hancock | Steven Nowakowski | Tali Fairholm |
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| Simon Mahar | Stewart Jennings | Tamara Desiatov |
| Simon McWhirter | Stu Harvey | Tamara L Gibson |
| Simon Milman | Stuart Nolan | Tamara Siddell |
| Simon Mitchell | Stuart Porter | Tammie & Toby Gardner |
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| Simone Cannon | Stuart Skyrme-Jones | Tania Adsett |
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| Simone Reinertsen | Sue Brennon | Tania Cudmore |
| Sinead Phillips | Sue Findlay | Tania Lovells |
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| Skye Turner-Walker | Sue Graham | Tania Walker |
| Sofie Bernays | Sue Hammer | Tanya Benlow |
| Solar Moon | Sue Jenkins | Tanya Bourne |

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Tanya Roddan
Tara Blair-Smith
Tara Resch
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Tara Webster
Taryn Quach
Tasman Hayes
Tasmin Draper
Tatiana Dalin
Tayla Jade
Tegan McBride
Tegan Watson
Tenielle Brown
Terance Makoni
Teresa Cazzulino
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Terese Tanner
Teri Robertson
Terri Strong
Terrie Wells
Terry Cuthbert
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Terry Lustig
Terry Swain
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Thea Froysaker
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Therese Mc Mahon
Therese Simms
Thomas Buckley
Thomas Ebersll
Thomas Meek
Thomas Rowland
Thomas Wilson
Thomassen Leahy
Thomasine Maye
Tiffany Merritt
Tiffany Meyer
Tiffany Porter
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Tim Brown
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Tristan Stark
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Trudy O'Connor
Tui Adams
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Vera Liddy
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Wangworn Sankamethawee
Warwick Michael
Warwick Sprawson
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Wayne Carter
Wayne Falappi
Wayne Fall
Wayne Ham
Wayne Hooper
Wendy Austin
Wendy Clarke
Wendy Delaney
Wendy Hunter
Wendy Loeffler
Wendy Middleton
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William Brooker
William Kennedy
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Yvonne Poweleit
Zach Wilson

Zack Forrester
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Zoe Fletcher
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Zoe Pfitzner
Zoe Porter
Zoe Tasker

Disclaimer

The list of submitters relates to submissions received for the Archer Basin, Stewart Basin and Lockhart Basin wild river declaration proposals during the consultation period, which closed on 21 November 2008.

The list of submissions includes all submissions that are considered to be *properly made submissions* as defined under the *Wild Rivers Act 2005*. *Properly made submissions* are defined as submissions that were received by the then Department of Natural Resources and Water (now the Department of Environment and Resource Management): on or before 21 November 2008; states the name and address of each person making the submission; the grounds of the submission and the facts and circumstances relied on in support of the submission; is signed by the person or people making the submission and is received by the person stated in the submission notice.

An additional 792 submissions were received between 22 November 2008 and 31 December 2008 that were considered to be not *properly made submissions*. Whilst these submissions were considered for the final declaration of the Archer Basin, Stewart Basin and Lockhart Basin wild river areas, they have not been included in this list.