

Committee Secretary

Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

To Whom It May Concern:

We have become aware of a call by the Senate for submissions into the *Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010*. We are traditional owners of the Northern Peninsula Arca of Cape York representing the Angamuthi, Gudang, Yerdikhana and Athambaya people. We are the stewards of our rivers and our environment in relation to our culture, custom and our beliefs. These things are very important as they unite us and our land. We have taken responsibility for the management of our land for the last 40,000 years and it has been managed in a way which links to our custom and our beliefs in preserving our natural resources.

Under our custom, we have responsibility for managing our land in a proper way and making decisions to ensure that occurs. Taking away our decision making rights by declaring wild rivers removes our customary responsibility to care for our country. This responsibility is very important under our customs.

We strongly support the legislation which ensures that the Queensland Government cannot declare wild rivers without our agreement.

Yours sincerely

This letter was signed by 13 signatories