

The government has undertaken extensive consultation with affected Indigenous communities on Cape York Peninsula and is confident that it has addressed any concerns the Indigenous communities may have had. It was also noted from the consultation that there is significant support for the intent of the Wild Rivers program amongst Indigenous communities on Cape York Peninsula.

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, as a pilot project, 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 on the Cape. The government has committed to evaluate the success or otherwise of the 20 positions, prior to a decision for possible expansion of the program with employment of up to 100 rangers across the State.

The government is confident that future development can occur in a wild river area in such a way that the wild river's natural values are preserved. This ensures the rivers are preserved for all to enjoy, now and in the future.

**Comment [RB12]:** Ross and I strongly disagree with this paragraph. It is open to interpretation whether we did consult widely and extensively. What is consultation to one may not be consultation to another. I am not confident we have addressed concerns as we wouldn't be going back to Balkanu with the DG if this were the case. There was not significant support for wild rivers. It was a mixed viewpoint Significant indifference.

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**Comment [RB13]:** Whohah! Cabinet review occurs March 09 and may extend the program, if considered successful, but may not!

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FREEDOM

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INFORMATION

APPLICATION NO. 3372

