



The Honourable Anna Bligh MP  
Premier of Queensland  
PO Box 15185  
CITY EAST QLD 4002  
[premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

16 June 2010

Dear Premier,

**Re: Queensland Wild Rivers Protection**

I have been directed by the State Council of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (Wildlife Queensland) to commend you on the recent declaration of the Wenlock River under the Wild Rivers Act.

The declaration of this river has demonstrated your Government's firm commitment to the protection of Queensland's wild rivers. The creation of half-kilometre buffer zones around the ecologically fragile springs is also a great result. These buffers ensure that any mining activities that are approved will be kept well away from the springs and streams that feed into the Wenlock. Wildlife Queensland understands that the viability of the proposed Cape Alumina mining project is now in serious jeopardy, as the buffers also significantly reduce the total bauxite mining area within the company's lease application.

Wildlife Queensland would like to draw attention to the 9 remaining wild unprotected river systems of the Cape York Peninsula and the three in the Channel Country. These river systems hold an ecological value equal to or higher than those currently declared. Without legislative protection the remaining rivers are exposed to the same destructive developments that have destroyed many other Australian river systems like the Murray. While Wildlife Queensland commends you on your recent commitment to the wild rivers of the Cape, Wildlife Queensland advocates for a formal recognition of the remaining wild rivers under the Wild Rivers Act. Wildlife Queensland believes it is now time to secure the long-term protection of all Queensland wild rivers recognised by the Beattie Government in 2004.

Wildlife Queensland is of the opinion that rivers in other regions of Queensland must be considered in the future. It is suggested that the Paroo in the Channel Country would be an ideal addition to our wild rivers. Wildlife Queensland acknowledges that existing agreements between the NSW and Queensland Governments are in place to restrict any infrastructure developments however declaration under the Wild Rivers Act would provide further security to this agreement. Your Government would also be commended if Baffle Creek in the south-east of Queensland was added to the list.

Wildlife Queensland would like to thank you for considering our comments.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Maxwell'.

Fiona Maxwell  
Community Conservation Officer  
Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland