

MEDIA RELEASE

Wik leader applauds Wild Rivers legislation

8th April 2009 – A respected Wik leader from the Cape York community of Aurukun, Gina Castelain, today applauded Anna Bligh on the decision to apply the Wild Rivers legislation to the Archer basin.

Ms Castelain is Managing Director of Wik Projects Ltd, an organisation dedicated to the social and economic development of the Wik and Wik Waya people. She believes that if implemented properly and in partnership with local aboriginal people, that the Wild Rivers is good legislation.

“We want to protect our environment and our rivers. We are working hard to develop and maintain economic activity which does not harm our waterways – such as Aurukun Wetland Charters – using catch and release fishing and eco- tourism,” she said.

“The ongoing commercial fishing activity in the Archer Basin is inconsistent with our efforts to establish low impact tourism. Today there are four barramundi fishing boats in the Archer River system each with licence for six nets. That adds up to too many nets across the river.

“Traditional Owners have been calling for an end to commercial barramundi fishing in the Archer Basin for years. We look forward to working with Anna Bligh and her team in the ongoing work of looking after these rivers, and in developing enterprises with low environmental impact.”

Wik Projects is currently convening the Waterways, Wetlands and Coastal Advisory Committee in Aurukun – representing the aspirations of traditional owners in an attempt to forge constructive relationships with industry, government and natural resource management bodies. The Advisory committee looks forward to ongoing consultation with Wild Rivers co-ordinators on the practical implementation of the Wild Rivers legislation.

For more information or comments please contact

Gina Castelain
Wik Projects
Managing Director
Phone: (07) 4058 1441
Mobile: 0408 423 167



1/39 Stratford Parade
Stratford Qld 4870
PO Box 1723
Cairns Qld 4870

ph. +61 (07) 4058 1441
fax. +61 (07) 4058 1442

www.wikprojects.com.au