

Wild Rivers

WHAT A WILD RIVER DECLARATION REALLY MEANS

Wild rivers are free flowing rivers in healthy condition. They have many important natural and cultural values, providing habitat for a huge diversity of wildlife and plants and supporting communities and sustainable industries.

In 2005 the Queensland Government introduced laws to protect the best of the best of Queensland's rivers from destructive developments, like large-scale irrigation and dams. Many of our best wild rivers in Australia are in the Gulf of Carpentaria - where four wild rivers have already been protected - and Cape York Peninsula.

The wild river laws work by regulating certain forms of potentially destructive new developments in declared wild river catchments. The regulations will not affect the day-to-day management of grazing properties or traditional Aboriginal and Islander customary and cultural activities. This is a sensible balance between regional development and protecting the environment.

www.wildrivers.org.au

Photo above: The Wilderness Society Collection
Other photos: Kerry Trapnell

IMPORTANT DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES AND LOW IMPACTS DEVELOPMENTS CAN CONTINUE TO OCCUR:

- Fishing and camping along rivers.
- Building houses and other essential community infrastructure.
- Unlimited access to stock and domestic water.
- Grazing stock on open pasture and river banks.
- Undertaking traditional ceremonies.
- Weed and feral animal management.
- Developing aquaculture away from streams
- (Plus all existing developments).

NEW ENVIRONMENTALLY DESTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE RESTRICTED:

- Building new dams and weirs, except for stock and domestic purposes.
- Developing large scale irrigation projects.
- Introducing non-indigenous fish into the rivers.
 - Introducing certain invasive weed species in protected zones.
- Developing new aquaculture farms close to streams.
- Mining instream (other areas with a strict EIS).

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