



114 Boundary Street
Railway Estate, Townsville
Qld, 4810
PO Box 364, Townsville
Ph: 61 07 47716226
office@nqcc.org.au
www.nqcc.org.au

The Hon. Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection
(Attention: Director Biodiversity Implementation)
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
GPO Box 2454
Brisbane Qld 4001
wild.rivers@ehp.qld.gov.au

10 January 2014

Dear Minister

**Re Revocation proposal notice for the Lockhart, Archer, Stewart and Wenlock Basins
Wild River Declarations under *Wild Rivers Act 2005* (section 32)**

North Queensland Conservation Council is writing to ask you not to revoke protection of the above river basins under the *Wild Rivers Act 2005*. These rivers are some of the most un-touched and un-damaged rivers left in the world. As such, Australia has an obligation to look after them.

However, it is also in Australia's interests to do so. They encompass a considerable slice of Australia's biodiversity – which underlies the environmental (and therefore social and economic) health of the nation.

It would appear the state government's proposed Statutory Regional Plan will substantially weaken river protections. This will inevitably be the case if the area is subject to vegetation clearing, irrigated agriculture and mining.

As is becoming obvious, the so-called 'mining boom' has not delivered the boost to Australia's stability or social wellbeing that was anticipated. It is very likely that the benefits accruing from development of the area would less than match the costs of its development, destruction or 'taming'.

To push for development of the very last areas of untouched nature would run afoul of the ESD principle of intergenerational equity.

NQCC urges you to "leave a bit of wild beauty for the kids".

Make this one of your legacies for future generations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Tubman', written in a cursive style.

Wendy Tubman
Coordinator