



The Research Director  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
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**Submission to the inquiry into a Human Rights Act for Queensland**

Dear Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to the inquiry into a Human Rights Act for Queensland.

Whitsunday Residents Against Dumping (WRAD) believe it is appropriate and desirable to legislate for a Human Rights Act in Queensland for the following reasons:

- We believe it is vital because we can and should put a right to a healthy environment into a human rights act. This has been included in many other human rights act, bills and charters around the world, so it is not a new idea.
- By passing a Human Rights Act, Queensland will show its support for fundamental human rights. We consider the right to a healthy environment a fundamental human right. The right to clean air and water, land and oceans should be considered as a fundamental human right. Without a clean, healthy environment, the basic human rights to life - health, work and education - cannot be fully realised.
- We also need to consider the rights of more marginalised Queenslanders, who are often not considered in an equal and appropriate manner compared to the rights of others. Examples are: indigenous people and rural Queenslanders who frequently suffer impacts to their air and water quality which would not be allowed to occur in urban Queensland. A Human Rights Act would help to address this imbalance in the concern for the environmental needs of marginalised people versus those in cities.
- A Human Rights Act would help to ensure that the Government gives appropriate consideration to the rights of all Queenslanders to transparency and accountability in governance, through ensuring rights such as the right to access to information, monitoring data, or the right to have your concern's heard with respect to development proposals that might adversely affect you by damaging your environment.

Yours sincerely



Sandra Williams  
Director  
WRAD