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The Research Director
State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
sdiic@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee consideration of the State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

I write regarding the above Inquiry, and wish the following to be accepted as a formal submission to the Committee.

I oppose the sections of the *State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014* (the Bill) at least to the extent that it seeks to repeal the *Wild Rivers Act 2005*. My summary reasons for this are that the Bill will lead to the removal of vital river protections that have been in place in Queensland for the past ten years, the case for such removal has not been successfully made, and the alternatives currently proposed are weak, complex and lack transparency.

Queensland is blessed to retain some of the last remaining, pristine or near pristine waterways left of the planet. The need for strong state legislation protecting wild rivers in Queensland was broadly recognised and accepted more than a decade ago. The *Wild Rivers Act 2005* was passed with full support of the Queensland Parliament.

I do not understand why the government is moving to repeal the Wild Rivers Act at this time. I believe that Queensland's wild rivers are too important to be exposed to destructive development threats.

I therefore urge the Committee to recommend against the proposed repeal of the Wild Rivers Act, as proposed in the Bill under examination.

Yours sincerely

Graham Thomas
(Signature)