

**Margaret Telford**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 June 2014 1:29 AM  
**To:** State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee  
**Subject:** State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Amendment Bill 2014

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

Re: State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

Dear Madam/Sir,

I write to object to the State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. In particular I am against the part of this Bill that repeals the QLD Wild Rivers Act 2005. The repeal of this act will result in a lack of protection for environmentally significant areas. The new proposed strategic environmental areas will not provide adequate environmental protection, allowing exemptions or regional interests approvals for unsuitable resources projects in these wild river areas.

River systems protected by the Wild Rivers Act in Queensland remain largely undisturbed, and should not be opened up for excessive development and resource extraction. Many of these rivers are in pristine condition, which is rare around the world, and their ecological value should be preserved by strong legislation. The Wenlock River, for example, contains the highest diversity of freshwater fish of all Australian rivers. Other areas, such as the unique channel country in southwest Queensland contain sensitive groundwater systems that are fed by river systems, which should be protected. Protected river systems in Gulf Country contain pristine wetlands, grasslands, and savannah, while Fraser and Hinchinbrook Island wild river systems contain RAMSAR wetlands. All of these rivers have been protected under the current Wild Rivers Act for very important reasons, and should remain protected under the Wild Rivers Act.

In addition to protections provided by the Wild Rivers Act, there is also a balance between protection and development, with reasonable commercial activity and development allowed, and indigenous rights and land title recognised. The Wild Rivers Act currently does a great job of providing strong environmental protection while allowing for economic activity.

I urge the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee to recommend against repealing the Wild Rivers Act 2005.

Thank You,

Brendan Pitt

