

**Margaret Telford**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 June 2014 11:19 AM  
**To:** State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee  
**Subject:** Submission on State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

The Research Director  
State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee Parliament House George Street Brisbane Queensland 4000

26 June 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in relation to the proposed repeal of the Wild Rivers Act and associated regulation, which is contained in the State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislative Amendment Bill 2014.

I am astonished that the Government of Queensland is seeking to repeal the entire Wild Rivers Act, as the Act had been in successful operation for over a decade and transparently and effectively protects some of the very last wild rivers in Australia as part of the complex and poorly understood ecosystems of northern Australia. The legislation has protected very sensitive ecological areas from destructive further development such as new mines, dams and irrigation systems, but at the same time has allowed a wide range of less destructive or beneficial activities, including Indigenous uses, to go ahead. This is a good system and it is working transparently and without undue complexity given the importance and variety of the interests that need to be balanced.

I believe the proposed replacement, Strategic Environmental Areas, will not provide sufficient protection for Queensland's wild rivers, because it gives too little parliamentary oversight and too little geographic precision, while still wrapping development up in a complex web of regulations and other controls.

Finally, I am appalled that the Government had chosen to seek repeal of the Wild Rivers Act, despite having no mandate to do so from the Queensland electorate, and in such a way as to minimise the opportunity for public submissions to and influence over the proposed changes. This is very disappointing, both for Queenslanders and for other Australians such as myself concerned about wild rivers and their ecosystems.