

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1650

asked on Tuesday, 11 November 2008

MS MALE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER IN NORTH QUEENSLAND (MR WALLACE)—

QUESTION:

Will he update the House on the progress for new Wild River nominations?

ANSWER:

On 23 July 2008, the Government published notices of intent to declare three river systems in Cape York as proposed wild river areas. These notices were for the Lockhart, Stewart and Archer River basins.

Since the release of the declaration proposals, Wild Rivers Officers from the Department of Natural Resources and Water have met with over 300 individuals and held over 100 meetings in these wild river areas on Cape York, to inform as many people as possible about the proposed wild river declarations.

This consultation has involved Traditional Owners, pastoralists, mining companies, roadhouse operators, Indigenous organisations and individuals, as well as local governments and State government agencies.

The submission period for receipt of comments on these three declaration proposals, closed on 21 November 2008. I will now consider all the submissions received and then make a decision about whether or not to declare these proposed wild river areas.

Further to this, the Government this week announced the proposed nomination of the Wenlock River Basin as a Wild River Area. I can assure the House that the same widespread consultation will also occur for this declaration proposal.