

Media Release

Sunday, 18th March 2012

‘Support Wild Rivers and work with us’ Aboriginal leaders across Queensland call for parties to back Wild River declarations

Aboriginal leaders and Traditional Custodians from Cape York and the Gulf of Carpentaria in north Queensland, and the Channel Country in the west have called on all of the Queensland parties in the State election campaign to support Wild Rivers.

“We want whoever forms the next Government in Queensland to keep the Wild Rivers Act, retain the Wild River declarations already in place, and grow the Wild River Ranger program” said Mr David Claudie a Traditional Owner Custodian from the Wenlock and Pascoe Rivers of Cape York Peninsula.

The leaders are also calling on the parties to provide additional funding to the Wild River Ranger work and to commit to helping the local groups manage the rivers through their chosen organisations on their homelands.

“We need more people out on country to look after it, this is why we are seeking an additional 100 Indigenous wild river rangers to do the job” the group said.

The leaders say the Wild River declarations on their country provide their families and communities with the means to build sustainable industries alongside managing and using their rivers.

“Before anyone makes any changes to wild rivers they should seek the agreement of Traditional Owner Custodians from already declared Wild River areas”

“We are asking the next Government to work with us, not against us, to ensure our effort to protect our rivers continues” concluded Mr Claudie.

We have requested a response from each party by the 21st March 2012.

David Claudie
Wenlock and Pascoe River
07 4060 3240

Scott Gorringer
Cooper Creek, Georgina and Diamantina Rivers
0427 022 139

Bernard Charlie
Ducie, Jardine and Jacky Jacky Rivers
07 4069 3875

Jimmy Richards
Gilbert, Mitchell and Staaten Rivers
0428 186 037

Donald deBusch
Archer and Peach Rivers
0428 283 439

Gavin Bassani
Stewart River
07 40603367
0418 982 308