



Wild Rivers Canberra hearing rescheduled

Representatives from Australian Government departments and agencies will appear before the House of Representatives Economics Committee on Friday 26th November from 1.30pm to 3.00pm in Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra, as part of the committee's inquiry into Indigenous economic development in Queensland, including issues surrounding Queensland's *Wild Rivers Act 2005*.

This Hearing is a reschedule of the Thursday 18 November Hearing which was postponed due to House of Representatives business.

The *Wild Rivers Act 2005* (Qld) aims to 'preserve the natural values of rivers that have all, or almost all, of their natural values intact', but not undermine sustainable Indigenous economic development in the Cape York region or other parts of Queensland.

In addition to examining the broader question of Indigenous economic development, the committee has also been asked to examine the impact that the recently introduced Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010 would have, if passed. The Bill provides that the development or use of native title land in a wild river area cannot be regulated under the *Wild Rivers Act 2005* (Qld) without the agreement of the land owner in writing.

The Terms of Reference for the inquiry, referred by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Ms Jenny Macklin, can be found on the Committee's webpage at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/economics>.

The Committee has been asked to report by March 2011, and will accept submissions, preferably by email, **until Friday, 28 January 2011**.

Further details about the inquiry, including how to make a submission, can be obtained from the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/economics or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4209 or emailing economics.reps@aph.gov.au.

Public hearing program for Friday, 26 November 2010 Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, CANBERRA

1.30pm Representatives from various Australian Government departments and agencies.

3.00pm Adjournment

Webcast: The hearing will be webcast live on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Craig Thomson MP, on (02) 4351 1223 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 4460 Parliament House