



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics

11 February 2011

Mr Harry Jenkins MP
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Suite R G 44
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Speaker

**INTERIM REPORT:
REVIEW OF WILD RIVERS (ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT) BILL 2010**

On 17 November 2010 the House of Representatives referred the Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010 to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics for inquiry and report by the end of the autumn period of sittings in 2011. Submissions addressing this Bill are being received as part of the Committee's broader inquiry into indigenous economic development in Queensland.

The Committee foreshadows that it will be unable to complete its inquiry by the required date, and is seeking an extension of time to report.

The extensive flooding throughout Queensland has impacted significantly on a range of key stakeholders who expressed their intention to contribute to the Committee's inquiry, but who were not in a position to meet the deadline for submissions due to their need to attend to urgent flood-related priorities.

Given these circumstances, and in recognition that many involved in the inquiry are suffering hardship, the Committee extended the closing date for submissions to its inquiry.

The inquiry program has been adjusted to accommodate this extension. As a result the Committee expects that it will require an extension of time to report, and will seek to present its final report to the Parliament by the end of May 2011.

This additional time will increase the opportunity for those who have been adversely impacted by the floods to participate in the inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Craig Thomson MP
Chair