



WILD RIVERS

House Economics Committee to visit Far North Queensland

29 November to 2 December 2010

The House of Representatives Economics Committee will visit far north Queensland between 29 November and 2 December 2010 as part of its inquiry into indigenous economic development.

In addition to examining the broader question of Indigenous economic development, the committee has also been referred, by the House of Representatives, Mr Abbott's private member's bill, the Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010.

The Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010 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 committee will conduct a public hearing in Cairns on Monday, 29 November and then visit Weipa, Bamaga and Lockhart River from Tuesday, 30 November through to 2 December. In order to maximise participation, the committee will conduct public meetings at each of the venues. For the public meetings, participants need not have produced a written submission to have their say.

The committee expects that it will return to Cairns during February 2011 for further public hearings in order to maximise participation in the inquiry. The date and venue for this hearing will be determined in the new year.

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>. Submissions addressing the Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010 will be received as part of the committee's broader inquiry into indigenous economic development which was referred by Minister Macklin.

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

Visit Program

Date	Location	Venue	Time
Monday, 29 November	Cairns	Bluewater Conference Room, The Sebel Cairns	11:00am-5.00pm
Tuesday, 30 November	Weipa	Weipa Council Chambers	11.30am-3.00pm
Wednesday, 1 December	Bamaga	Resort Bamaga Conference Room	11.00am-2.00pm
Thursday, 2 December	Lockhart River	Church Hall	11.00am-1.00pm

For media comment: Please contact the Committee Chair Craig Thomson MP:

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