



## **Cape York Land Council**

32 Florence Street, Cairns

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday 28 April 2006

#### **QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT IGNORES NATIVE TITLE WITH *WILD RIVERS ACT***

In a submission to the Queensland Government lodged today, the Cape York Land Council heavily criticised Premier Beattie's *Wild Rivers Act* for its impact upon the native title rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Cape York.

The Chairman of the Cape York Land Council, Mr Michael Ross, today called for a meeting with the Minister for Natural Resources & Mines, Henry Palaszczuk and Desley Boyle, the Minister for the Environment, to discuss a solution.

"The Land Council is very concerned that the *Wild Rivers Act* impacts upon our native title rights" said Mr Ross. "We have Queen's Counsel's advice that the new law impacts native title and yet the State Government refuses to meet and negotiate a solution with traditional owners. Traditional owners want a negotiated solution, we don't want our rights taken away by Government, we've had enough of that", said Mr Ross.

Under the Commonwealth *Native Title Act*, certain acts that affect native title rights require consultation with native title holders and the payment of compensation. "The Queensland Government has ignored the *Native Title Act*" said Mr Ross.

For further comment contact:

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