

WILD RIVERS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT ACT 2007 (QLD)

Act No 8 of 2007

Assented to 28 February 2007

The *Wild Rivers and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2007* (QLD) ('the Act') amends the *Wild Rivers Act 2005* (Qld) to enable certain types of development to occur that would not previously have been permitted under a wild river declaration, insofar as the development does not adversely affect the wild river natural values. The Act inserts a process for approving a property development plan as a precursor to proposed amendments to wild river declarations.

The Act inserts a new Part 1A, which confirms that the Wild Rivers Code is a statutory instrument and provides procedures for amending the Code. Amendment declarations must include details of changes to existing boundaries of the river area and information pertaining to the taking of natural resources as a result of property development plans. Proposed development plan applications must delineate the activities or removal of natural resources to which the plan applies and the nature, extent and location of those activities or takings. An application must also provide details of potentially adverse impacts of a development on the natural values of the relevant wild river, and how this can be minimised. Details of potentially beneficial impacts related to the doing of things related to the principal activities are also required. The Minister may only approve such plans where they cannot reasonably be carried out without amending the wild river declaration, where the activities will not have an overall adverse impact on the natural values of the wild river, and where the environmental benefits of the plan justify its approval.

Part 3 of the Act amends the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld) by removing the term 'dredging material' from the list of exempt environmentally relevant activities.

Part 4 amends the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (Qld) so that sections 19A-19C of that Act do not apply to the wild

river code or a part of that code that is a declared area code.

Part 5 amends the *Water Act 2000* (Qld) by clarifying the definition of 'customer' of local government and non-local government service providers. It also introduces a new section 966A(2), extending the grounds upon which applications in relation to operational work in wild rivers areas must be refused.

The full text of this Act is available online at: <<http://www.austlii.edu.au>>.