

# Wild river rangers...protecting our world-class wild rivers

## What is a wild river ranger?

The Queensland Government has 20 Aboriginal rangers in Cape York Peninsula and the Gulf of Carpentaria working to protect and promote the world-class natural values of Queensland's wild rivers.

To be declared a wild river, the river system must have all, or almost all, of its natural values intact, be virtually untouched and in near-natural condition.

The wild river rangers program aims to maximise the benefits of wild rivers for local communities by encouraging the development of businesses based on services that assist the environment .

## The rangers' role

Wild river rangers work with landholders, communities and traditional owners to protect and promote the wild rivers' systems in the Gulf and Cape (see map for detail).

The rangers ensure that the unique ecologies of wild rivers are better managed and preserved by:

- managing weeds, feral animals, fire and other threats to the river systems
- collecting photographs of, and data on, local species and habitats
- recording traditional stories
- managing visitor activity.

As locals, the rangers have close links with the traditional owners of the country they care for. They work with the elders and a range of agencies to preserve key wetlands and ecosystems of high biodiversity or cultural significance.

The rangers are employed full-time and are based at Pormpuraaw, Kowanyama, Mapoon, Chuulungan, Doomadgee, Burketown and Normanton (see map for detail).

The ranger groups will share their knowledge by comparing land management practices. In this way, the rangers will learn from each other and pass their skills onto the community's younger generations.

## Queensland Government support

Staff from the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) directly assist the rangers to set up their businesses and undertake fieldwork.

The wild river rangers program is part of the Looking After Country Together framework, a whole-of-government policy aimed at improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander involvement in managing land and sea country.

The wild river rangers program is managed by DERM with funding provided by the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation.



## For further information

To find out more about wild river rangers, email <wildriver.rangers@derm.qld.gov.au>, visit the DERM website <www.derm.qld.gov.au> or telephone 13 13 04.

