

# Wild Rivers

Information for Communities  
in a Declared Wild River Area

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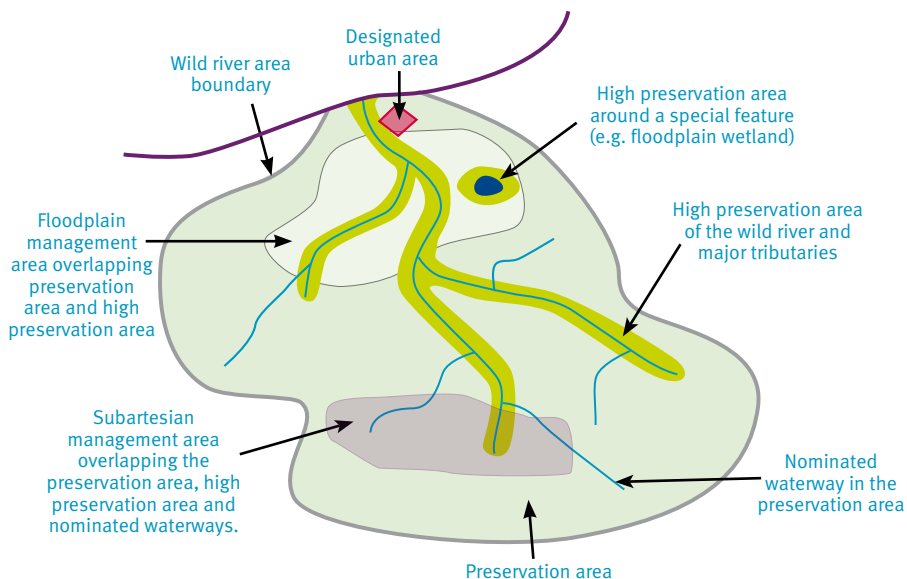


The purpose of the *Wild Rivers Act 2005* is to preserve the natural values of Queensland's remaining wild rivers. The Act outlines how a wild river area will be declared and how future development activities will be managed to preserve these important places.

The Act recognises existing developments and rights in wild river areas, including traditional Indigenous rights, and these are not affected. There will be consultation before any river system is declared a wild river area, so communities will have a say.

This brochure provides a quick summary of what activities can or cannot occur in a wild river area.

## Key parts of a wild river area



This diagram shows the key management areas for a wild river area. The **high preservation area** is particularly important and will generally include the main river, its major tributaries and key wetlands. The **preservation area** covers the rest of a wild river area.

Wild river areas can also include:

- nominated waterways in the preservation area—these are streams that are important to a wild river but are not major tributaries
- floodplain management areas—these are key parts of floodplains that are closely linked to a wild river
- designated urban areas—these are towns, settlements or villages
- subartesian management areas—these are areas of groundwater that are directly connected to the flows in streams.

The wild rivers legislation only affects new developments that are undertaken after a wild river declaration is made.

# Understanding activities in wild river areas



## ◀ Fencing

- ✓ High preservation area
- ✓ Preservation area

You may need a permit to clear natural vegetation for a fence line.



## ◀ Weirs and dams

- ✗ High preservation area
- ✓ Preservation area

Weirs and dams are not allowed in a high preservation area. A licence is required for weirs or dams in a preservation area. Traditional fish traps are allowed anywhere in a wild river area.



## ◀ Boating, camping and fishing

- ✓ High preservation area
- ✓ Preservation area

If using live bait, it has to be caught locally. Normal fisheries rules still apply.



## ◀ Aquaculture

- ✗ High preservation area
- ✓ Preservation area

The farming of fish, crabs, yabbies, etc. is not allowed in a high preservation area. Approvals such as fisheries permits will be needed for fish farms in a preservation area.



## ← Grazing

- ✓ High preservation area
- ✓ Preservation area

You are not required to fence off rivers.



## ← Clearing

- ✓ High preservation area
- ✓ Preservation area

You may need a permit to clear natural vegetation.

In a high preservation area, you can only clear for certain purposes, such as weed control, fences, firebreaks, roads, etc. Vegetation clearing rules do apply in a preservation area.



## ← Tourism

- ✓ High preservation area
- ✓ Preservation area

Certain structures such as buildings, water supplies, boat ramps and boardwalks may require permits.



## ← Tracks

- ✓ High preservation area
- ✓ Preservation area

You may need permits for vegetation clearing or for taking sand and gravel to construct stream crossings.



## < Outstations

- ✓ High preservation area
- ✓ Preservation area

You may need a local council permit to construct buildings.



## < Traditional cultural activities

- ✓ High preservation area
- ✓ Preservation area

A wild river area does not affect activities such as hunting, fishing, gathering, ceremonies and harvesting of bush food and medicines for your own or your community's use.

For more information visit  
**[www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)** or contact  
a wild river coordinator on  
**(07) 4039 8281.**