



**Hon Craig Wallace MP**  
Member for Thuringowa

Ref CTS 11974/08

23 DEC 2008



**Queensland  
Government**

**Minister for Natural Resources  
and Water and Minister Assisting  
the Premier in North Queensland**

Mr N J Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Cnr Alice and George Streets  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie 

I refer to your letter of 2 December 2008 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 1091-08 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition requests that the House protect Baffle Creek's pristine environment and flows from dams and weirs, by placing it under permanent preservation legislation.

Whilst the Department of Natural Resources and Water is willing to further assess the suitability of the natural values of the Baffle Creek for a potential declaration as a Wild River, it is not currently a priority catchment for wild rivers consideration. The immediate priority for the department is finalising the wild rivers process in the 13 river systems on Cape York Peninsula.

The department is also currently in the process of developing a water resource plan for the Baffle Creek Basin. Water resource plans are developed through a statutory process under the *Water Act 2000*.

Key components of this process include consultation with a Community Reference Panel in developing a draft plan, public consultation and the consideration of submissions received on the draft plan.

The petition regarding Baffle Creek, along with other community feedback on the issue of dams and weirs on Baffle Creek, will be taken into consideration as part of the water resource planning process. It is anticipated that a draft water resource plan for the Baffle Creek Basin will be released for public comment in the first half of 2009.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

**Craig Wallace MP**  
**Minister for Natural Resources and Water and**  
**Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland**

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