



MEDIA RELEASE

4 June 2010

An environmental win is being celebrated today with the declaration of the Wenlock River as a Wild River.

The Wenlock River has the richest freshwater fish diversity of any Australian river, and supports a critical population of critically endangered Spear-tooth Sharks, endangered freshwater Saw Fish and the vulnerable Estuarine Crocodile.

Terri Irwin said this was a win for all Australians.

“I would like to congratulate the Queensland State Government. Minister Stephen Robertson visited the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve and the Wenlock River.

“This decision vindicates the intensive research we have conducted which clearly shows the environmental significance of the area and the importance of protecting it.

“This is a win for Queenslanders, and indeed all Australians. The Wenlock River Basin is one of the world’s most pristine ecosystems. Declaring the river as a Wild River means that it will be protected and preserved for future generations.

“Steve always said that the Wenlock was the most beautiful place on earth, and now I am so pleased that this spectacular river and its biodiversity will be protected for the future,” Terri said.

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Open every day (except Christmas Day) 9:00am - 5:00pm
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The environmental significance of the springs on the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve were also recognised with the Coolibah Springs Complex announced as a Special Feature and given Wild Rivers protection.

This decision means that 500m buffer zones will be enforced to help protect the perched bauxite springs on the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve and a one kilometre exclusion zone around the Wenlock River.

“Irrespective of mining and other issues, this was the right decision in regard to the protection of the natural values of the Wenlock catchment,” Terri said.

“The fight still continues to protect the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve from being strip mined.

“I would like to say thank you to over 280,000 people who have signed the petition and voiced their support of the protection of the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve so far,” Terri said.

“There is still the possibility that this tribute to Steve could be destroyed, so I encourage all of you to continue the fight with us to Save Steve’s Place and protect this awesome place for our children and future generations.”

If you would like to sign the petition to Save Steve’s Place visit www.savestevesplace.com

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