



Save Steve's Place

The Wenlock River

The Wenlock River is one of Australia's most ecologically significant rivers and runs for 65 kilometres along the southern boundary of the Reserve.

The Wenlock has the highest number of freshwater fish species of any Australian River.

It is as a **crucial sanctuary for populations of endangered Freshwater Sawfish** and supports Queensland's largest population of the "vulnerable" Estuarine Crocodile.

Unusual fish such as the poorly known "Freshwater Whiptail Ray" and the "Freshwater Sole" are common in the Wenlock.

The "rare" **Palm Cockatoo** and **Spotted Cuscus** (a rare type of possum), the Magnificent Riflebird and Trumpet Manucode, the Orange footed Scrub Fowl, and the huge Amethystine Python are all iconic species of the Wenlock's rainforests.

The lower estuarine sections (downstream from the Reserve) likewise provide crucial habitat for rare and threatened marine and estuarine wildlife including **Spear Toothed Sharks, Dugong, and Irrawaddy River Dolphins.**

The Tentpole Creek section of the Wenlock system has the best **Estuarine Crocodile** nesting habitat in Queensland.

The water extraction proposal from the Wenlock by the Mining Company involves a daily extraction rate of 20 million litres/day which is more than what the city of Cairns uses in a day.

There are major concerns this will shrink the "freshwater pool" that moves up and down the river with tidal movement. Increased salinity will affect estuarine wildlife and vegetation and cause the death of riparian rainforest plants which are not salt tolerant.

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For more information about the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve and the fight to Save Steve's Place, contact:

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