

FITZROY RIVER — PROTECTION

Statement by Member for Kimberley

MS J. FARRER (Kimberley) [12.53 pm]: I was proud to play a key role in a landmark meeting on 2 and 3 November with the traditional owners of the Fitzroy River in the Kimberley. We are concerned about the extensive development proposals facing the river and its catchment and the potential for cumulative impacts on its unique cultural and environmental values. At our meeting, traditional owners agreed to work together to action a process for joint prescribed body corporate decision-making on activities in the catchment; create a buffer zone that prohibits activities that would adversely impact on the catchment; develop a management plan and management body for the Fitzroy catchment; engage with local and state governments on the agreed joint process; and investigate legal options to strengthen our declaration under existing state and federal legislation, as well as specific legislation aimed at protecting the Fitzroy River and catchment. The unique cultural and environmental values of the Fitzroy River and its catchment are of national and international significance and must be protected for current and future generations.