



Kimberley Land Council

Statement on Martuwarra Fitzroy River Water Extraction/Allocation Plan

16th June 2021

Dear Premier McGowan, Minister Dawson and Minister Sanderson,

We are extremely disappointed that the WA Government's consultation process on the proposed Fitzroy River water allocation plan, which to date has been inadequate.

We urge the State Government to ensure the free, prior and informed consent of the Traditional Owners who speak for the Martuwarra is obtained regarding any development of the Martuwarra.

The Traditional Owners who speak for the Martuwarra have not consented to any development of the Martuwarra including a water extraction/allocation plan.

We call on the State Government to work with the Traditional Owners who speak for the Martuwarra to co-design any proposed development of the Martuwarra.

Importantly, we need to understand how to keep the Martuwarra healthy before we can discuss any proposed developments.



Anthony Watson
Chairman, Kimberley Land Council



Kimberley Land Council

Kimberley Land Council calls on McGowan Government to stand up for Aboriginal people

16th June 2021

Dear Premier McGowan and Minister Dawson,

As we deliver this letter to you, on the steps of Parliament House, we are imploring the McGowan Government to acknowledge this historic moment and stand with Aboriginal people to protect our heritage.

We are calling on the McGowan Government to work with Aboriginal people to ensure no more injustices are done. This means the WA Government needs to draft laws that stop the ongoing destruction of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. We cannot see a repeat of the destruction of sites like Juukan Gorge in the Pilbara and the Garnkiny and Jawaren sites in the East Kimberley.


We are calling on the McGowan Government to go back to the drawing board on the proposed Aboriginal Cultural Heritage laws. The proposed laws will give more power to mining companies to avoid engaging directly with native title holders.

Any new laws must recognise the right of Aboriginal people to protect their cultural heritage. We are asking the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Stephen Dawson to sit down with mining companies, native title groups and native title representative bodies from across Western Australia to make sure this is done right.

We are extremely disappointed by the Government's failure to prosecute Kimberley Granite Holdings for destruction of cultural heritage under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* or for undertaking mining operations without a mining lease in clear breach of the Mining Act.

We call on the Premier Mark McGowan to show leadership and ensure no further injustices are be done.

We call on Premier McGowan, Stephen Dawson and our two elected Kimberley representatives in the McGowan Government, Divina D'Anna and Rosetta Sahanna, to stand up for Traditional Owners all over the State of WA. We ask for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill not to be presented to Parliament in its current form.



Anthony Watson
Chairman, Kimberley Land Council