



## **Sustainable Development Officer - Broome**

### **Position Description**

#### **Background**

The Kimberley region is of global importance. The ecological and scientific values of one of the vastest unspoilt areas left on the planet, encompassing numerous naturally functioning ecosystems, are comparable only with places such as the Great Barrier Reef and the Amazon rainforest. The Aboriginal cultural values of the Kimberley are outstanding; the Traditional Owners' ancient connections to their country continue strongly through to the present day and their ecological knowledge is critical to the management of the environment.

The region's stunning seas, myriad islands, coral reefs, mangroves, rainforests, savannah woodlands and rivers are home to an astonishing variety of wildlife, including the world's largest Humpback Whale population, the critically endangered Freshwater Sawfish, charismatic Snubfin Dolphins, recently rediscovered Night Parrots and the threatened Greater Bilby.

Yet the region faces serious, increasing and cumulative threats to its ecological and socio-economic health, including climate change, extensive wildfires, feral animals and weeds, as well as fast-growing industrial development not suited to the region, with its fragile soils and ecosystems, extreme climate and unpredictable rainfall.

The Fitzroy River catchment is facing industrial-scale irrigation proposals, which threaten its National Heritage-listed cultural values and ecology as well as the viability of new industries that rely on a healthy landscape. The McGowan Government has committed to the protection of the River through a Management Plan, no dams policy, National Parks along some sections of the river and a water-allocation plan, all in partnership with Traditional Owners. The successful implementation of these commitments will determine the health of the catchment and the viability of locally based, sustainable enterprises that benefit residents instead of wealthy corporations, for generations to come.

The Kimberley coast is an exceptional global asset. It is amongst the top 4% of the most intact coastlines in the world, with breathtaking landscapes and Aboriginal rock art that goes back into deep time. Coastal tourism is critical to the Kimberley economy but, with increasing visitation, management and custodianship needs to be strengthened so that the many threats can be negated. The McGowan Government has committed to declaring a marine park over the thousand islands of the Buccaneer Archipelago in partnership with Traditional Owners. The extent of the boundaries and sanctuary areas, and support for Traditional Owners to manage the park, will be critical to conservation success as well as to the future health of coral reefs, seagrass beds and fish populations.

This position will provide a coordinated response to the McGowan Government's commitments by integrating conservation, protection and management with sustainable economic development to ensure the best outcome for the environment and future generations.

## **Job context and purpose**

The Project will take a constructive and consultative approach to increasing protection of both marine and terrestrial/freshwater environments in the region. This project engages with a number of existing government initiatives, including:

- Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park commitment
- Fitzroy River Management Plan
- Fitzroy Catchment National Park proposals
- Fitzroy River Catchment water allocation plan

The position will also take an evidence-based approach to development, which enhances and protects the environment while providing cultural, social and economic benefits to locals.

This project is conducted in collaboration with national and other state-based conservation organisations.

## **Position objective**

To achieve statutory protection for key environmental assets in the Kimberley and ensure development is compatible with the long-term stewardship of the Buccaneer Archipelago and Fitzroy River.

## **Reporting relationships**

The Sustainable Development Officer will report directly to the Environs Kimberley Director.

## **About Environs Kimberley**

Environs Kimberley is the Kimberley's peak environmental organization, having formed 22 years ago to support Traditional Owners' aspiration to protect the Fitzroy River from being dammed. We are a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to conserving and promoting the natural, environmental and cultural values of our region, advocating for strong environmental protection, more effective management and improved sustainability.

We support development that is locally based and compatible with the special qualities and values of this unique, beautiful and little studied region.

## **Conditions**

Position:	Full-time
Hours:	37.5 hours per week
Wage:	Negotiable according to experience
Superannuation:	9.5%
Leave:	45 days pa (6 weeks)
Employment period:	This position is for 12 months ending in September 2019, with the possibility of extension, funds permitting
Location:	Based at Environs Kimberley office, Broome. Some regional travel will be required.

## **Selection criteria – essential**

1. Demonstrated ability to plan and implement strategies and campaigns relevant to achieving conservation as part of a team
2. A high level of interpersonal and relationship-building skills, networking and alliance-building skills, excellent negotiation and liaison skills in general, and in cross-cultural settings, as part of a team without direct supervision
3. Demonstrated ability to communicate clearly with all parties, in writing and orally via presentations and submissions, in person and through the media, by networking and advocacy
4. An understanding of the cultural, social and economic context of environmental issues in northern Australia
5. Demonstrated capacity to research and analyse complex matters and communicate them concisely and simply; show creative and innovative approaches to problem solving
6. Demonstrated knowledge of the workings of government and bureaucracy, and the ability to engage with government at a high level
7. Experience and strong understanding of the use of social media to build campaign support, and ability to analyse its effectiveness through data analytics
8. Demonstrated ability to plan and raise significant funds for campaign purposes
9. A willingness to travel as required, and a current WA drivers licence.

## **Applications**

Applications must include a cover letter and a CV, and address the selection criteria in no more than four pages, addressed to the Environs Kimberley Director and sent electronically to [admin@environskimberley.org.au](mailto:admin@environskimberley.org.au) with a deadline of **midnight October 14, 2018**.

Any queries regarding the position can be directed to Tessa Mossop on (08) 9192 1922.