



## Environs Kimberley questionnaire for candidates for the seat of Kimberley for the 2021 WA State Election

Nine questions for candidates for the seat of Kimberley

The following candidates responded:

- Karl Felhauer, Western Australia Party
- Divina D'Anna, Labor
- Naomi Pigram, Greens
- Kai Jones, Independent

No response was received from:

- Geoff Haerewa, Liberal Party
- Millie Hills, The Nationals

### PROTECTING THE FITZROY RIVER

**1. Do you think the National Heritage-listed Fitzroy River and its floodplains and tributaries should be protected from water extraction for irrigated agriculture via pumps and canals?**

**Karl Felhauer, Western Australia Party**

Yes. The Fitzroy River is an important ecological asset required to maintain the natural environment of the Kimberley, any damming or restriction of the water flow will alter significantly the natural environment and causing irreparable damage.

The Fitzroy River also belongs to everyone in the Kimberley (and Western Australia) and everyone should be able to enjoy and use it without any restrictions.

**1. Do you think the National Heritage-listed Fitzroy River and its floodplains and tributaries should be protected from water extraction for irrigated agriculture via pumps and canals??**

**Divina D'Anna, Labor**

To protect the significant cultural and environmental value of the Fitzroy River and its tributaries, WA Labor will work with Traditional Owners and other stakeholders to create a Fitzroy River National Park and ensure the river will not be dammed.

The national park is being co-designed with Traditional Owners. We are in a unique position to plan rather than react in the Fitzroy River catchment. Using traditional knowledge and lessons learned from other jurisdictions we can be very clear about ensuring the proposed Fitzroy River National Park creation provides real outcomes for the protection of cultural, and environmental values while providing opportunities for sustainable economic development.

Consultation is also underway with stakeholders and Traditional Owners to understand their views about sustainable development in the catchment. No decisions have yet been made about the allocation of water in the catchment, and future decisions will be informed through ongoing consultation with Traditional Owners and other stakeholders.

**1. Do you think the National Heritage-listed Fitzroy River and its floodplains and tributaries should be protected from water extraction for irrigated agriculture via pumps and canals?**

**Naomi Pigram, Greens**

Yes. The Martuwarra Fitzroy River is culturally, spiritually and ecologically significant and a Kimberley icon. As the least spoilt river on the planet and major drainage basin that is home to endangered sawfish and other critical species, it is now even more important to protect it. We value our iconic Fitzroy River / Martuwarra region; its animals and plant life, and its historical, spiritual and cultural significance to First Nations Peoples.

The Greens (WA) remain firm in their commitment to protect Australia's unique land and waters, which I as a candidate am proud of. Numerous government inquiries and CSIRO reports have all identified the importance of water security in ensuring the future of WA people, communities and environment. We have seen the disasters of the Murray-Darling and King Rivers; therefore, the Greens (WA) and I cannot support regulated destruction of the Martuwarra.

**1. Do you think the National Heritage-listed Fitzroy River and its floodplains and tributaries should be protected from water extraction for irrigated agriculture via pumps and canals?**

**Kai Jones, Independent**

Protect the vital Fitzroy River and its floodplains? Absolutely, they're National Heritage Listed for a reason. They're an essential link in the environment and environmental cycles, break the cycle and we'll break the ages old ecosystems which exist throughout the area.

The water which exists in the Fitzroy and floodplains must stay in the region, the whole area depends on it.

Everything in the area has a natural purpose, pumps and canals are not part of the purpose.

## **SUPPORTING NATIONAL PARKS ALONG THE FITZROY RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES**

**2. Do you support National Parks being established along the Fitzroy River and its tributaries?**

**Karl Felhauer, Western Australia Party**

Yes, I believe that more national parks will preserve the Kimberley's natural wonders for everyone to enjoy.

They will also protect significant natural and cultural sites for future generations to enjoy.

The Kimberley isn't as resource rich as the Pilbara therefore it needs something else to create jobs and I believe the best way that can happen is through tourism. The Kimberley already has a good tourism industry but it could be better and creating more national parks will be one way of doing that.

**2. Do you support National Parks being established along the Fitzroy River and its tributaries?**

**Divina D'Anna, Labor**

Yes. WA Labor is committed to the creation of a National Park(s) along the river and its tributaries.

The recent negotiation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements with the Bunuba and Gooniyandi People were the first steps in the protection of the Fitzroy River.

Negotiations are underway with Yurriyangem Taam in relation to their stretch of the river.

Areas proposed for the national parks include the riverbed and riparian vegetation to enable effective and efficient management of the national park. Where agreed, the national park will extend to include nearby Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, other historic sites and existing and potential tourism and recreation areas.

WA Labor is committed to working with other Traditional Owner groups who may wish to advance a dialogue about the expansion of the National Park.

**2. Do you support National Parks being established along the Fitzroy River and its tributaries?**

**Naomi Pigram, Greens**

Yes. The Greens (WA) fully support the establishment of the Fitzroy River / Martuwarra National Park as it is critical for species survival, the protection of habitats and conservation of the regional ecology.

In this National Park we hope to see increased and real commitment to our lands, waters, and ecological communities. We would like to see programs for public awareness and education of the significance of the River through cultural and eco-tourism and ranger programs, for example. As such, The Greens (WA) have made a commitment for \$60 million to fund Indigenous Ranger programs as well as to work towards securing lifelong funding for these. We are also committing over \$51 million to boost cultural tourism businesses.

**2. Do you support National Parks being established along the Fitzroy River and its tributaries?**

**Kai Jones, Independent**

Yes. The Fitzroy River and its tributaries are essential links in the ecosystem, I dunno how or why our Governments are behaving like they don't understand that.

Governments have previously demonstrated that they look to be more interested in looking after mining companies than they are about looking after the environment. Mining companies need the environment, but the environment doesn't need mining companies.

A National Park protecting Fitzroy River and its tributaries is a great start, but we need extra safeguards for when the mining companies find expensive lawyers to find the next loophole and the next area to exploit.

**3. Do you support the call by the Kimberley Land Council and Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council for a comprehensive consultation process about the future of the Fitzroy River and its tributaries?**

**Karl Felhauer, Western Australia Party**

Yes, I certainly do – they are the traditional owners and have lived on that land for 10s of 1000s years and know it better than any other person. They have more right than anyone else to have the biggest say in what happens.

It is also a significant part of their cultural being and any significant changes will cause irreparable damage to their culture.

**3. Do you support the call by the Kimberley Land Council and Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council for a comprehensive consultation process about the future of the Fitzroy River and its tributaries?**

**Divina D’Anna, Labor**

Yes. WA Labor has embarked on the most extensive process of Traditional Owner engagement and consultation in land management planning in the history of our State. This process has included the involvement of the Kimberley Land Council and Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council and also the direct engagement of Aboriginal Prescribed Body Corporates, local Aboriginal communities and all other impacted and key stakeholders. This partnership will continue in a re-elected McGowan Government.

**3. Do you support the call by the Kimberley Land Council and Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council for a comprehensive consultation process about the future of the Fitzroy River and its tributaries?**

**Naomi Pigram, Greens**

Yes. More than just a consultation process, First Nations traditional custodians must have a lead role in co-designing and leading restoration projects on country. Their continuing connection to country and traditional knowledge, and the practices of culture are powerful tools in the efforts to protect, restore and reconnect bushland, waterways and ecosystems. Nothing should be done on their lands without custodians being an integral part of the processes and actions.

**3. Do you support the call by the Kimberley Land Council and Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council for a comprehensive consultation process about the future of the Fitzroy River and its tributaries?**

**Kai Jones, Independent**

Yes. Working together will provide a better collective voice with a variety of ideas and achieve better collective protections for Fitzroy River and catchments

than solely relying on National Park status to protect the region.

## PROTECTING THE BUCCANEER ARCHIPELAGO AND ADELE ISLAND

**4. Do you support the Buccaneer Archipelago and Adele Island being protected in a world-class marine park?**

**Karl Felhauer, Western Australia Party**

Yes. Those areas are important marine areas for a number of marine creatures and significant importance for all Western Australians and should be protected. I would also support the creation of other marine parks and reserves.

**4. Do you support the Buccaneer Archipelago and Adele Island being protected in a world-class marine park?**

**Divina D'Anna, Labor**

Yes. WA Labor is deeply committed to the establishment of the Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park. The McGowan Government has already signed ILUAs with Bardi Jawi, Mayala and Dambimangari and released draft indicative management plans for broader consultation and feedback from other sectors, the community and key stakeholders. Once this feedback has been received, considered and adjustments made where appropriate, WA Labor will work to finalise and create the marine park.

**4. Do you support the Buccaneer Archipelago and Adele Island being protected in a world-class marine park?**

**Naomi Pigram, Greens**

Yes. The Buccaneer Archipelago is a pristine environment that deserves to be protected under a co-managed Marine Park designation. The current protections for the Buccaneer Archipelago are insufficient and therefore The Greens (WA) provide in-principle support for the co-designed project, recognising it is still under the public comment phase.

The proposed new Marine Park is a critical opportunity for cultural and eco-tourism that teaches people about the values of the area, as well as for scientific study alongside traditional knowledge's.

**4. Do you support the Buccaneer Archipelago and Adele Island being protected in a world-class marine park?**

**Kai Jones, Independent**

Yes. The area is unique, spectacular, beautiful and (mostly) unspoilt. It must be kept that way for all future generations!

## INCREASED SUPPORT FOR ABORIGINAL RANGERS

**5. Do you support a significant increase in state government investment in Indigenous Ranger groups in the Kimberley?**

**Karl Felhauer, Western Australia Party**

Yes I certainly do and in fact I have supported this idea for some time and I recently spoke about it in a podcast that I did for you Party which should be up on the website shortly - <https://westernaustrialiaparty.org.au/> (if it isn't there when you visit, please check in regularly as it will be up soon).

I believe that this is an excellent opportunity to provide employment for the young Aboriginal men and women and thereby going along way to reduce many of the social issues affecting their communities.

It will also help to reconnect them to the land and their culture and no-one will have a better love and understanding of the country than they will have.

I also believe that in doing so will also benefit tourism as well.

**5. Do you support a significant increase in state government investment in Indigenous Ranger groups in the Kimberley?**

**Divina D'Anna, Labor**

Yes. The McGowan Labor team have announced, if re-elected, they will commit to a \$50 million expansion of the highly acclaimed WA Ranger Program as well as the continued expansion of joint management and other opportunities for Aboriginal Rangers across the Kimberley and the rest of the State.

**5. Do you support a significant increase in state government investment in Indigenous Ranger groups in the Kimberley?**

**Naomi Pigram, Greens**

Yes. The Greens (WA) and I fully support increases to Indigenous Ranger programs for cultural, ecological and economic reasons. We have made an election commitment for \$60 million in funding for them, as well as to work towards securing forever funding for all Indigenous Ranger groups for job and environmental security and to cut 'red tape' in what we know are cumbersome grants processes.

As in the answer to Q.3, the continuing connection to country and traditional knowledge, and the practices of First Nations cultures, are powerful tools in the efforts to protect, restore and reconnect ecosystems, for carbon drawdown and carbon abatement.

In addition, employment of First Nations communities, such as within the Indigenous Rangers groups, is helping to boost social, cultural and economic outcomes for First Nations Peoples. The Indigenous Rangers program has been a resounding success. We know that for every dollar invested, it returns \$3 in environmental, social and economic benefits.

**5. Do you support a significant increase in state government investment in Indigenous Ranger groups in the Kimberley?**

**Kai Jones, Independent**

Yes. I fully support it.

The work done by Indigenous Ranger groups are vital for continuing to build cultural and natural resources, inspiring the next generations to continue the work, and traditional conservation and land management methods which are likely not properly acknowledged or understood by Western society but which greatly benefit the region.

Look after the land, nurture it and protect it and it will look after us.

Thank you to our Indigenous Rangers for the valuable work they do, and can continue to do with further funding.

**BANNING FRACKING**

**6. Do you support a ban on fracking in the Kimberley's Canning Basin as has been declared in the South West, Perth and the Dampier Peninsula?**

**Karl Felhauer, Western Australia Party**

Yes. I think it is a very destructive method of mining and the long term effects of the land are unknown.

**6. Do you support a ban on fracking in the Kimberley's Canning Basin as has been declared in the South West, Perth and the Dampier Peninsula?**

**Divina D'Anna, Labor**

The McGowan Government implemented its election commitment to hold an independent scientific inquiry into hydraulic fracture stimulation, which reported on 12 September 2018 ([www.frackinginquiry.wa.gov.au](http://www.frackinginquiry.wa.gov.au)).

Findings from the inquiry show that the risk to people and the environment from hydraulic fracture stimulation is low and manageable.

The McGowan Government agreed in-principle to all 44 recommendations of the independent scientific inquiry, including the right for Traditional Owners to say no to oil and gas production from fracking on their land.

This means that hydraulic fracture stimulation will only be allowed under world class protections and regulation, ensuring the highest standards of health, safety and environmental protection for all operations.

The McGowan Government has banned fracking in Perth, Peel and the South-West as well as Broome, the Dampier Peninsula, other areas of environmental significance in the Kimberley and have introduced new world-class strict controls to regulate the industry, following the findings of the independent scientific inquiry.

WA Labor believe this is a balanced and responsible policy that supports Traditional Owner rights, economic development, new jobs, and environmental protection.

**6. Do you support a ban on fracking in the Kimberley's Canning Basin as has been declared in the South West, Perth and the Dampier Peninsula?**

**Naomi Pigram, Greens**

Yes. The Greens (WA) are the only party committed to banning fracking across all of WA, which is why I chose to run as a Green. Fracking is not just bad for our water bodies, the environment and climate, it also does not stack up economically. Fracking is the most expensive way to extract gas, and in communities in the United States that allowed fracking, it resulted in a poorer local economy and shrinking population.

Despite Government and industry talk of environmental risk being manageable, there are already too many instances of fracking going wrong and no guarantee of safety. The risks of damage from fracking are just too great. There is enormous potential for fracking to cause irreparable pollution and damage to waterways, ground water and geological structure due to the method and chemicals involved.

We also have evidence of radioactive wastewater in a fracking well at Noonkanbah station, as well as in the Northern Territory. Fracking, both in exploration and extraction phases is also an incredibly disruptive process to flora, fauna and the ecosystem as a whole.

Fracking is deeply unpopular with not just those in impacted areas, but also people all across our state who want clean and safe water, food and air. By lifting the moratorium on fracking in the Kimberley, the Government only keeps the oil and gas industry happy, despite what the community wants. Instead, The Greens (WA) and I are backing traditional custodians, communities, farmers, and action groups that are firmly against fracking.

**6. Do you support a ban on fracking in the Kimberley's Canning Basin as has been declared in the South West, Perth and the Dampier Peninsula?**

**Kai Jones, Independent**

Ban fracking? Absolutely!

Fracking poisons water, kills the environment and risks life throughout the area. Keep the Kimberley safe, frack off!

## PREVENTING LARGE SCALE LANDCLEARING

**7. Would you be in favour of laws to prevent large-scale landclearing in the Kimberley?**

**Karl Felhauer, Western Australia Party**

I think there is already enough land being cleared and it needs to stop. If we want to counter the effects of global warming we should be planting more trees and removing them!

**7. Would you be in favour of laws to prevent large-scale landclearing in the Kimberley?**

**Divina D'Anna, Labor**

The McGowan Government has worked tirelessly to improve the consistency, transparency and quality of information to enable better management of our State's native vegetation. If re-elected WA Labor will release a draft, the first whole of government - State Native Vegetation Policy for public feedback.

We want to ensure we protect our beautiful Kimberley landscapes.

**7. Would you be in favour of laws to prevent large-scale landclearing in the Kimberley?**

**Naomi Pigram, Greens**

Western Australia is one of the most biologically diverse places in the world. It is also one of the places in which biodiversity is most under threat. Land clearing has historically been the most significant cause of biodiversity loss in WA and remains so today. Since colonisation, around 90% of WA's vegetation has been lost. We need to engage in large-scale regeneration, not clear any more land.

We have seen the effects of large-scale clearing of native vegetation, including a reduction in biodiversity and increase in land salinisation. From an environmental perspective, any further reduction to native vegetation through land-clearing for agriculture cannot and should not be supported. Government departments and Ministers need to regulate to protect our environment, not facilitate further destruction. We just cannot afford it.

**7 Would you be in favour of laws to prevent large-scale landclearing in the Kimberley?**

**Kai Jones, Independent**

Among other things land clearing is a large factor in depleted or lost plant species, lost animal habitat, rising water tables, salinity and precious topsoil being blown away when incorrect land management methods are being used in areas which they are not designed for.

Land clearing is also used by mining companies to explore their options for exploitation. Former Premier Barnett demonstrated his lack of accountability for mining companies clearing land, that must never be allowed to happen again.

## SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO RENEWABLES

**8. Would you support Horizon Power switching from gas and diesel to renewable resources to power Kimberley towns?**

**Karl Felhauer, Western Australia Party**

Yes. As the technology improves we should be investing in more renewable sources for our power. I also believe that all new building constructed (both commercial and residential) that it should be mandatory that they have solar panels included in the build as well as designing builds to be more energy efficient.

**8. Would you support Horizon Power switching from gas and diesel to renewable resources to power Kimberley towns?**

**Divina D'Anna, Labor**

Through Horizon Power, the McGowan Government is already replacing fossil fuels through the installation of solar and battery systems. Programs include Standalone Power Systems, Solar Schools, the Broome Smart Sun Pilot and Smart Streetlights.

The McGowan Government has committed to Horizon Power not deploying any new standalone diesel generation from 2025.

A re-elected McGowan Government will continue to transition the Kimberley to cleaner technologies.

**8. Would you support Horizon Power switching from gas and diesel to renewable resources to power Kimberley towns?**

**Naomi Pigram, Greens**

Yes, reasons are:

- Long-term economic gain
- Community ownership of energy supply
- Opportunities for local manufacturing and technician jobs
- Aligns with global trends to abate climate change
- International obligations eg: Paris Agreement targets

The Greens (WA) have a target of 100% renewable energy by 2030, so we would support a transition for Kimberley communities as a matter of urgency. WA is blessed with an abundance of renewable energy resources giving us a competitive advantage in the global renewable energy economy.

Instead of embracing a renewable future, the two major parties continue to receive millions in donations from fossil fuel companies and lock in massive gas projects. The gas industry currently operates without effective controls, pays very little in taxes or royalties and is the greatest driver of Australia's increasing emissions. This means WA is fuelling the climate crisis rather than solving it. It also means we're missing out on renewable energy, cheaper power bills and the thousands of clean jobs that come with it.

The Greens (WA) are committed to a clean energy future. We will deliver a rapid, planned phase-out of coal and gas that supports fossil fuel workers and communities through the transition to clean, green jobs of the future. We have a plan to invest in the necessary technologies to build a decentralised, reliable renewable energy grid fit for the 21st century that makes energy more affordable to all Western Australians.

**8. Would you support Horizon Power switching from gas and diesel to renewable resources to power Kimberley towns?**

**Kai Jones, Independent**

Gas and diesel are finite resources, it won't be too long before all the mining companies run out of natural resources to exploit and by then it's too late to start thinking about renewable alternatives.

We must switch to renewables in practical and logical movements as appropriate to our baseload requirements, before it's too late!

Additionally, I support transitioning other industries from their reliance on non-renewable resources, ie raw minerals and resources are still required to make steel, aluminium and similar metals to build houses, cars, solar panels, wind turbines etc, we must work together to transition these manufacturing companies to build their products with more renewable resources and continue to reduce our impact on our environment.

## SUPPORTING MORE CONSERVATION RESERVES IN THE KIMBERLEY

**9. Less than 10% of land in the Kimberley is protected under legislation in conservation reserves. Would you support a significant increase in such reserves?**

**Karl Felhauer, Western Australia Party**

Yes. As stated previously, I am a firm believer national parks and would support more conservation reserves being developed and protected. This will be good for the country and also for tourism.

**9. Less than 10% of land in the Kimberley is protected under legislation in conservation reserves. Would you support a significant increase in such reserves?**

**Divina D'Anna, Labor**

A re-elected McGowan Government will continue to deliver the ambitious plan to expand the conservation estate by five million hectares or 20% - the biggest single expansion of the conservation estate in Western Australia's history with significant increases in the Kimberley.

The Plan for Our Parks will see new and expanded parks from the Kimberley in the north, across WA's Rangelands, through population centres in Perth and Bunbury, to our south-west forests and along our southern coastline. This is creating more opportunities for nature-based and cultural tourism, provides enhanced biodiversity conservation and builds on Aboriginal joint management throughout Western Australia, particularly in the Kimberley.

A re-elected McGowan Government will continue to progress our work to deliver the creation of the Fitzroy River National Park and the Buccaneer Archipelago marine and national parks.

**9. Less than 10% of land in the Kimberley is protected under legislation in conservation reserves. Would you support a significant increase in such reserves?**

**Naomi Pigram, Greens**

Yes. Reasons are:

- "Reserves" are the base level protection for our land and waters
- Fosters eco-tourism
- Allows biodiversity and to flourish and puts the protection of our environment first

Our natural environment is part of what makes the Kimberley an incredibly unique place. We need to invest in protecting our precious places and designating areas as "Conservation Reserves" is the first step. Reserves are the base-level

protection for our lands and waters, allowing biodiversity to flourish; so yes, we are absolutely in favour of significantly increasing reserves.

The Greens (WA) are committed to investing \$22 million for upgrades to nature trails, signage, and visitors centres in WA's existing National Parks and Conservation Reserves. In addition, we are proposing the establishment of a \$125 million per annum Nature Fund to assist local Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups undertake critical ecological restoration and management work in the regions. The Greens (WA) are also dedicated to increasing parks and reserves, in terms of both the size of existing areas and the number of additional areas gazetted as reserves.

**9. Less than 10% of land in the Kimberley is protected under legislation in conservation reserves. Would you support a significant increase in such reserves?**

**Kai Jones, Independent**

Yes, of course I support increased protection, my family live here and our precious, unique Kimberley must be here for other families to enjoy for generations to come, but corporate interests probably wouldn't support it because they probably only see the Kimberley as an exploitable resource which they think should always be available for them to take at their convenience. Corporate bosses probably don't live here, we do, we will live with the massive holes they leave behind and any consequences when the inevitable environmental disaster happens and they sit back and point at clauses in their operational contracts which they say are sufficient to remove them from accountability, all while they use gag clauses to silence traditional owners and others from speaking out about their corporate bully behaviour. It'll be too late once mining companies have dug up the area, sold it and left a big hole where nature once was. We must invest in local eco-tourism and Indigenous community and family business who know the area so much better than anyone else in the state, that will provide opportunity to small business to continue looking after the land and encourage local tourism, looking after families, communities and environment for generations to come.