

WA LABOR

Plan for the Kimberley



A Fresh Approach for WA

WA Labor Policy | February 2017

ENVIRONMENT



Western Australian's are fortunate to have such a pristine and unique natural environment on our doorsteps. Our environment is the foundation of our lifestyle and WA Labor is dedicated to its protection and conservation for future generations to enjoy.

WA Labor has a strong record of protecting Western Australia's environment and whilst in Government some of its biggest achievements included putting an end to logging in our precious old growth forests and saving Ningaloo from inappropriate development.

We will continue to search for new and innovative ways to conserve and protect this precious resource to ensure following generations are able to experience WA's natural beauty well into the future.

Further Protection for the Kimberley

A McGowan Labor Government will ensure the Kimberley is protected in a way that respects native title and the conservation and land management achievements of Traditional Owners. WA Labor will provide certainty to marine based aquaculture and recreational fishing. As has been demonstrated at the Ningaloo Reef Marine Park, world class protection and world class recreational fishing go hand in hand.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will continue to implement a mosaic of national parks to protect the outstanding natural and cultural values of the broader Kimberley including a network of marine sanctuary zones.**

WA Labor will include the thousand islands of the Buccaneer Archipelago and the fringing coral reefs that surround them. The rights and aspirations of Traditional

Owners will be respected through strong consultation including on the boundaries of marine parks and by providing opportunities in management, science and tourism.

WA Labor will ensure that the Kimberley remains a world class tourism destination and provide certainty for the growth of the region's multimillion dollar tourism industry. It will support sustainable tourism at all levels to ensure economic growth beyond the mining boom whilst delivering real opportunities for people living in the region.

Tourism is the biggest industry on the Kimberley Coast worth an estimated \$250m per annum. Conservation, science and land management is also a big employer through indigenous ranger programs.

As the last WA Labor Government proved at Ningaloo Reef, creating world class protection in marine sanctuary zones leads to environmental, social, economic and political gains. Ningaloo remains a benchmark for marine protection, tourism has grown, the environment has recovered and it also remains a top recreational fishing destination. It has stood the test of time as a major environmental accomplishment of the Gallop and Carpenter Labor Governments.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will deliver a credible science-based process for the establishment of future marine sanctuaries in the Kimberley.**

Fitzroy River

The health of the Fitzroy River is intimately linked to culture and the health of many people, the protection of endangered species and the health of the Kimberley's pristine coastal marine environment that supports tourism, fishing and aquaculture industries. The traditional owners have released a declaration outlining their priorities for the Fitzroy River.

The Fitzroy River also has a rich pastoral heritage that has been recognised under the National Heritage listing.

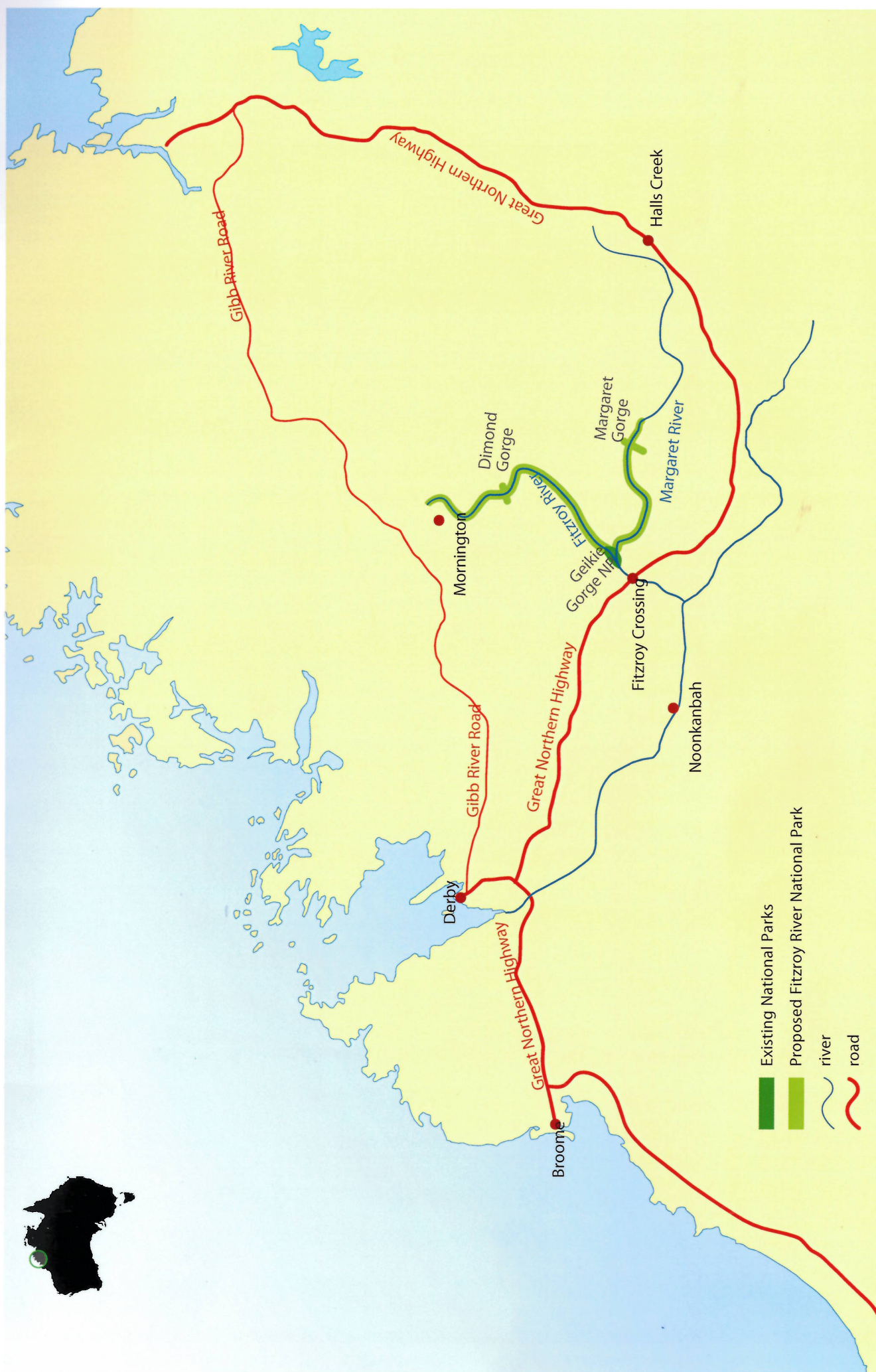
A McGowan Labor Government will

- **Create the Fitzroy River National Park which will extend the Geikie Gorge National Park along the Fitzroy River to the north and along the Margaret River to the east.**
- **Support the protection and development of a management plan for the Fitzroy River to ensure the health of the river and provide a basis for sustainable economic development.**
- **Not allow the Fitzroy River or its tributaries to be dammed.**

The national park will be jointly managed by the traditional owners and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Under the joint management agreement, traditional owners will be able to exercise significant control over their traditional lands, create sustainable economic enterprises in their own right and in partnership with private and Government entities.

WA Labor will work with Traditional Owners and other stakeholders to ensure the protection of the National Heritage and other significant cultural and environmental values of the Fitzroy River and provide a basis for sustainable economic development.



The Fitzroy River National Park



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