

Environs Kimberley questionnaire for candidates for the seat of Kimberley

Congratulations on your candidacy for the seat of Kimberley in the 2017 State election. For you as a candidate and for the person ultimately elected as the Member for Kimberley on the March 11, this election presents an opportunity to promote the outstanding values of the Kimberley region.

We have drafted a concise questionnaire for all candidates contesting the seat of Kimberley at the coming election. We will publicise the results of this survey through local media outlets, send your answers to our members and supporters across the region, feature the results on our website and promote through social media.

To meet media and promotion deadlines, please respond to this survey by 9am, Tuesday February 28, 2017

We look forward to hearing from you.

Seven questions for candidates for the seat of Kimberley

1. Do you think the National Heritage Listed Fitzroy River, its floodplains and its tributaries should be protected from dams and large-scale irrigated agriculture?

YES NO

Please give your reasons:

Yep. Raparapa (Fitzroy River) is vital for the ecosystems and eco-cycles which it feeds. Altering it sufficiently, either directly or indirectly, will adversely affect the ecosystems and eco-cycles which depend on it, including humans. Our kids and grandkids will have to deal with the outcomes of our actions, having Raparapa on the National Heritage List must* ensure the area and ecosystems exist for many generations to come.

* Governments are known to change things like Heritage Listings for their own purpose, ie for Roe 8 to happen the state Government removed Indigenous middens and other landmarks from the Heritage listing. Some of these landmarks are older than the pyramids, so who was expected to benefit from the project?

2. Do you think the Buccaneer Archipelago and Adele Island should be protected in a world-class marine park?

YES NO

Please give your reasons:

Yes. For fundamental and conceptual reasons similar to question 1.

3. Do you think state government investment in Indigenous Ranger groups in the Kimberley should be increased significantly?

YES NO

Please give your reasons:

Yes. Indigenous Rangers work usually goes largely unsung, but they do great research, background work and action on the ground throughout WA, NT and Qld with feral pigs, aquatic issues and other valuable ecological management:
<http://www.klc.org.au/land-sea/kimberley-ranger-network>

4. Would you support a moratorium on fracking and veto rights for Traditional Owners in the Canning Basin?

YES NO

Please give your reasons:

Yes, people who live on the land must have the right to veto someone's request to dig up that land, especially when it's culturally or ecologically sensitive. Additionally, understanding that current technology requires resource extraction for many industries and products, including materials required for infrastructure, housing and renewable energy products, and responsible and reasonable resource exploration with community support is required for this and related purposes.
http://kaijones.info/?page_id=49

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

YES NO

Please give your reasons:

Yes. Additionally, our Government(s) must not abuse our tax money for inappropriate purposes, ie use our tax money to send the riot squad to act as security for the interests of private corporation(s) and issuing move on notices to traditional owners, especially when approvals haven't been granted to begin site works. Sounds logical, right, but Government actions demonstrate otherwise.

6. Would you support government investment in the bushfood industry, e.g. growing and harvesting gubinge?

YES NO

Please give your reasons:

Yep, harvesting gubinge and similar bush food could create strong, long term, local economy and potentially put the Kimberley on the domestic and international (bush foods) map. Bush foods are also likely to be far less resource intensive than non-local foods.

7. Less than 10% of land in the Kimberley is protected under legislation in conservation reserves. Would you support a significant increase in such reserves if Traditional Owners supported them?

YES NO

Please give your reasons:

Yes. The Kimberley is one of the last untouched regions in the world, it's one of the many things which makes it so unique and special. Lets keep it that way so our grandchildren and visitors can continue enjoying it for generations to come.

When Government(s) genuinely engage with Traditional Owners and provide as many tax breaks and investments in eco and bio-tourism as they do in mining then we have a chance at genuine, long term, local economy without destroying the place.

“Take nothing but photo’s, leave nothing but footprints.”

Sincerely
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