



Kimberley Land Council

Statement from Kimberley Land Council CEO Nolan Hunter

The Kimberley Land Council is not aware of any engagement between KIMCO and the KLC or Traditional Owners regarding a new proposal to dam the Fitzroy River.

Any such proposal must be dealt with by the relevant claim group or native title holders and their PBC with regard to native title rights and interests in the Fitzroy River.

There must always be proper engagement with Traditional Owners in relation to any development proposal as prescribed by the Native Title Act.

The KLC facilitated a meeting last year with Traditional Owners to discuss the National Heritage Listing of the Fitzroy River and its tributaries, and the increasing development pressures on the Fitzroy River catchment.

At the meeting, Traditional Owners from different native title groups united to issue the Fitzroy River Declaration. The declaration is a powerful statement calling for stronger protection of the iconic Fitzroy River system.

The KLC will support Traditional Owners to realise the full potential of their native title rights. We will ensure that the voices of Traditional Owners are given standing in any decision making processes regarding the Fitzroy River and that their right to free, prior and informed consent is maintained.