

# Protecting the Kimberley's Unique Environment



The Liberal-led Government is protecting one of the world's last great wilderness areas through the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy.

An unprecedented \$103.6 million has been invested since 2008 to establish the biggest interconnected system of marine and national parks in Western Australia, jointly managed with traditional owners, creating employment and eco-tourism opportunities.

The Strategy protects the unique environment of the Kimberley while recognising the region as one of the great frontiers for scientific discovery and exploration.

It is the largest environmental conservation project ever undertaken in Western Australia.

## Fast Facts

- The north Kimberley is one of the few relatively untouched major wilderness areas left in the world and is listed as a National Biodiversity Hotspot.
- It is one of only two places on mainland Australia where all of the native mammal species present at the time of European settlement can still be found.
- Many of the area's distinct flora and fauna are found nowhere else on earth.

## An Unprecedented Investment in the Environment

Since 2008, when the Liberal-led Government first committed to the Kimberley Strategy, we have created six new Kimberley marine parks stretching from Eighty Mile Beach in the South to the far north Kimberley. The Great Kimberley Marine Park, Australia's second largest coastal marine park, extends from Talbot Bay to the Northern Territory border, covering about three million hectares.

This includes the iconic Camden Sound, the most important humpback whale nursery in the southern hemisphere and the extraordinary Horizontal Falls, one of the Kimberley's great wonders as well as beautiful Eighty-mile Beach and historic Roebuck Bay near Broome.



These new marine reserves will increase the State's marine parks and reserves from 1.5 million hectares in 2008 when the Government came into office, to more than 5 million hectares. This delivers unprecedented conservation outcomes along with eco-tourism and job opportunities.

The new Great Kimberley Marine Park is now Australia's second biggest marine park behind the Great Barrier Reef.

The new Kimberley National Park, will include the magnificent Mitchell Plateau and Mitchell Falls thanks to an historic agreement negotiated by the Liberal-led Government with Rio Tinto and Alcoa of Australia to terminate a State Agreement for the development of an alumina refinery and bauxite mine in the Mitchell Plateau.

The first agreement with the local Wilinggin people towards the creation of the new Kimberley National Park has been signed. This will be the largest national park in Australia spanning more than 20,000sqkm and rivalling Kakadu in size and diversity.

Other achievements under the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy include:

- Aboriginal employment on country rising from just 15 in 2008 to 220 people today;
- The removal of almost 25,000 feral cattle, with work continuing on the eradication of feral pigs, cats and horses;
- An annual prescribed burning program that has halved the amount of country burnt by destructive bush fires;
- The removal of commercial fishing from Roebuck Bay and a four-year barramundi restocking program in Lake Kununurra to ensure the area continues to enjoy the tourism benefits from recreational fishing.

## Our Commitment

A re-elected Liberal Government will continue to deliver our commitment to the Kimberley, including finalising the creation of the Kimberley National Park.



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