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## Fitzroy River commitments

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# Fitzroy River commitments

## Our commitment

The McGowan Government made three election commitments for the Fitzroy River:

- 1 To create the Fitzroy National Park which will extend the Geikie Gorge National Park further along the Fitzroy River to the north and the Margaret River to the east.
- 2 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, and
- 3 To not allow the Fitzroy River or its tributaries to be dammed.

The Government has also committed to prepare a water allocation plan.



“Our commitment is to work together across Government to deliver these outcomes.”





# Fitzroy River commitments

## How the parts fit together

The Fitzroy River management plan will be the single document that ties all of the Government's Fitzroy River election commitments together.

The purpose of developing the plan is to protect the health of the river while providing a basis for sustainable economic development.

The other commitments — national park, position on dams, water allocation plan — can be viewed as pre-committed actions within the broader Fitzroy River management plan.

## The scope of the plan

The management plan will cover the whole catchment. However, the Government recognises that the economic development actions that are included in the plan will be guided by the location of population centres, natural resources and attractions that can support economic development.

## How the plan will be prepared

The Government is undertaking desktop research and stakeholder consultation to prepare the management plan. The results of the research and consultation will be reflected in the management plan. This information will provide the necessary background and context to the working parts of the plan.

### Background research

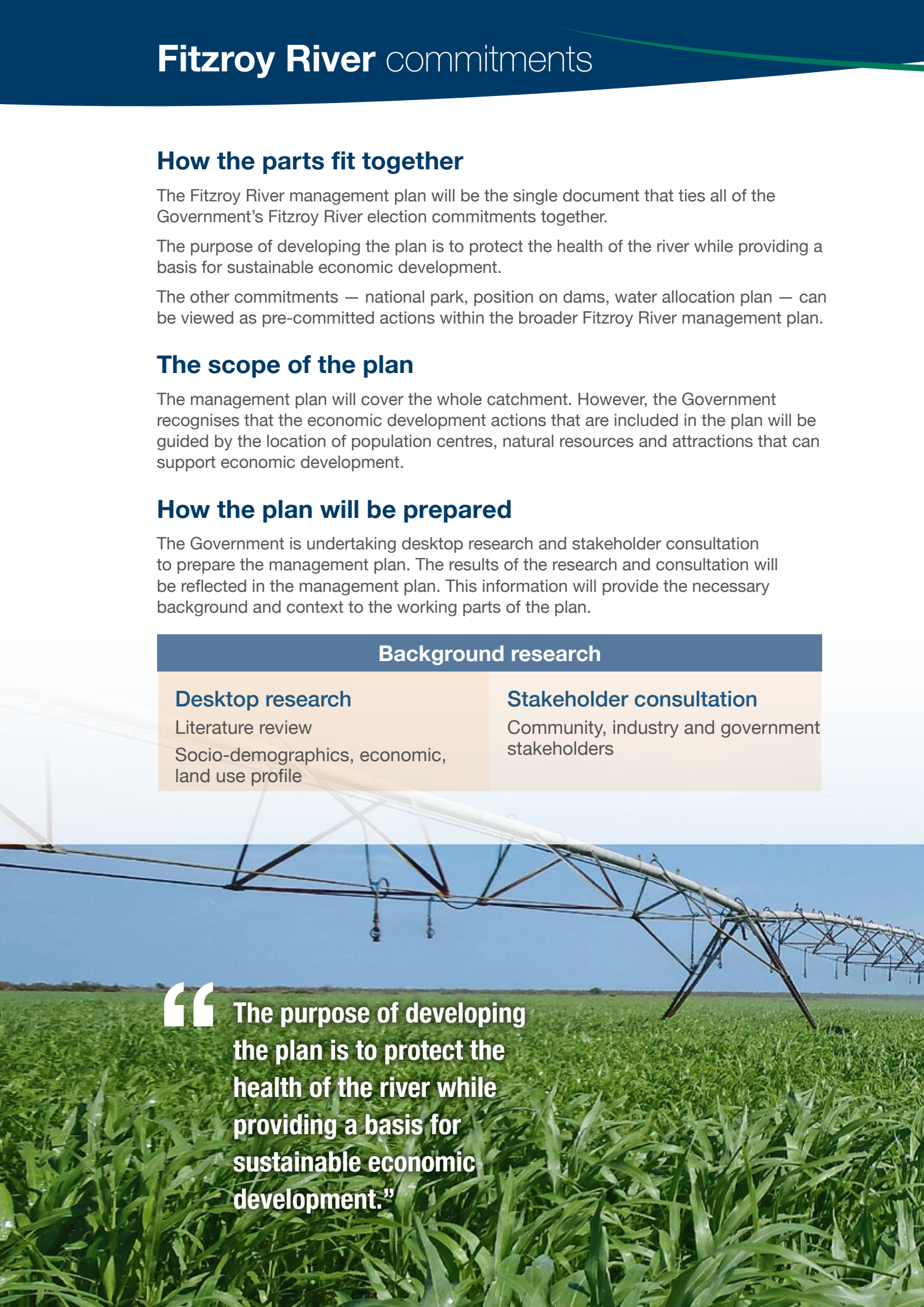
#### Desktop research

Literature review

Socio-demographics, economic, land use profile

#### Stakeholder consultation

Community, industry and government stakeholders



**“The purpose of developing the plan is to protect the health of the river while providing a basis for sustainable economic development.”**



# Management plan strategy

The management plan will address a number of economic development and conservation themes. Those themes are likely to include: Aboriginal economic development, agriculture development, environmental and cultural conservation, tourism, and new and emerging industries such as renewable energy. Each theme will have its own objective, strategies and priority actions.

The management plan will also include an implementation plan that identifies responsibilities, resources, and timelines for the priority actions.

Together, the strategy and implementation plan will be the heart of the management plan.

Management Plan Strategy	
<b>Strategy</b> Themes Objectives, strategies, priority actions	<b>Implementation plan</b> Responsibilities, resources, timelines

# Management plan strategy in focus

The next page shows the management plan strategy in focus and illustrates where the other commitments — national park, position on dams, water allocation plan — fit within the strategy.

The Government has commenced a review of numerous existing and past plans and initiatives of relevance to the Fitzroy River catchment. We have identified some possible objectives, strategies and actions for some of the themes through a very initial sweep. These possibilities are to start a discussion and lead us to new, adapted, novel and impactful ideas for the catchment. This sweep will progress into a full literature review in parallel with stakeholder consultation to develop the objectives, strategies and actions under each theme.



## Management plan strategy in focus

	Objective	Strategies	Actions
<b>Theme 1:</b> Aboriginal economic development	Generate local capacity, new business and job opportunities for Aboriginal people in the Fitzroy River catchment through primary and regional industries and projects.	1.1 Establish reserves of water for Aboriginal economic development	1.1.1 Establish a reserve of water in the water allocation plan
		1.2 Support and facilitate diversification opportunities on Aboriginal lands	1.2.1 Prepare maps identifying potential areas for agricultural diversification on Aboriginal-owned pastoral leases
			1.2.2
		1.3	1.3.1
		1.4	1.4.1
<b>Theme 2:</b> Agriculture development	To increase the value of irrigated agricultural production in the Fitzroy River catchment and create jobs and training opportunities taken up by local people.	2.1 Enable sustainable access to water resources	2.1.1 Prepare a water allocation plan
		2.2 Make information readily available	2.2.1 Prepare maps and supporting information to identify potential opportunities at a property scale
		2.3 Project facilitation	2.3.1
		2.4 Build local job readiness and capability	2.4.1
<b>Theme 3:</b> Environmental and cultural conservation	Maintain the Fitzroy River National Heritage values of the West Kimberley National Heritage Place	3.1 Increase the conservation estate	3.1.1 Create a national park
		3.2 No dams on the Fitzroy River or its tributaries	3.2.1 Establish policy on dams on the Fitzroy River and its tributaries
		3.3	
<b>Theme 4:</b> Tourism	Grow the value of the tourism industry in the Fitzroy River catchment in a manner compatible with maintaining the cultural and environmental values of the catchment	4.1 Identify and facilitate rangelands, nature-based and cultural tourism opportunities	4.1.1 Prepare and implement a tourism action plan
		4.2 Manage access	4.2.1 Prepare and implement a tourism action plan
		4.3 Develop tourism experiences	4.3.1 Develop tourism trails linked to Aboriginal culture and heritage
<b>Theme 5:</b> New and emerging industries	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed

# Fitzroy River commitments

## What the management plan will look like

The management plan will be a document published by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. It will bring the background research, the strategy and implementation plan together and will also identify a review process.



## Relationship to other initiatives

Other programs and initiatives that are relevant to economic development in the catchment, but extend more broadly across the state, will continue. Pastoral reform is an example of this. The management plan for the Fitzroy River will not interfere with those initiatives while ensuring there are no conflicts in intent or actions.

## Why the plan will not be a statutory plan

There is not a statutory model for a plan that can satisfy the dual purpose of the management plan, which is to provide for economic development while protecting the health of the river. However actions like the creation of a national park, as is already being progressed upstream of Fitzroy Crossing, can apply existing legislation to achieve particular outcomes, such as conservation.

## Responsibility for implementation

The plan will be authored by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development however responsibility for implementation will sit with a range of Government agencies. These responsibilities will be identified in the implementation plan.

## Timeline



March 2018	<b>Public forum Fitzroy Crossing</b> Election commitments reaffirmed National park consultation begins
June 2018	<b>Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council inaugural meeting</b> The Council meets with Government Department heads in Perth
August 2018	<b>Significant science investigations complete</b> Outcomes of the Northern Australia Water Resource Assessment released
October 2018	<b>Fitzroy River Ministerial Council formed</b> Formal governance structure confirmed to support effective communication and collaboration across Government
November 2018	<b>Fitzroy River Stakeholder Convenor appointed</b> Meetings shortly follow with key stakeholder groups
February 2019	<b>Stakeholder consultation</b> Water resource opportunities, dams, the management plan. Update on scoping area for proposed national park
15 March 2019	<b>Public forum</b>
August 2019	<b>Stakeholder forum</b>
November 2019	<b>Final national park boundary agreed</b>
Late 2019/early 2020	<b>Stakeholder forum (to be confirmed)</b>
Early to mid-2020	<b>Draft plans released for public comment</b> Review and consideration of public comments
October 2020	<b>Final products delivered</b> Management and water allocation plans complete Registration of Indigenous Land Use Agreement National park created

### For further information on the Fitzroy River management plan

Fitzroy Project Team  
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development  
27 Hunter Street, Broome WA 6725  
Phone: +61 8 9194 1400  
Email: [fitzroycommitments@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:fitzroycommitments@dpird.wa.gov.au)