



Photo: Alexander Hayes

Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council Newsletter

Vol. 1: Issue 7, December 2020



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WELCOME !

The Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council wishes to acknowledge your contribution as a Newsletter subscriber which supports the protection of the Martuwarra, Fitzroy River.

- Please encourage others to visit our main website -
<https://www.martuwarrafitzroyriver.org>

Editors

Dr Anne Poelina, Dr Magali McDuffie
& Dr Alexander Hayes

Featured Photography

‘Wet season shifts: Telegraph at Martuwarra’, 2020 by
Dr Alexander Hayes - Front Cover

‘Once in a Blue Moon: We Love You Martuwarra’ Event
Series by Dr Alexander Hayes, 2020.

‘Wet season begins’ by Dr Anne Poelina, 2020.

‘Kajan Ngaba: Martuwarra flood waters in early flow’
by Dr Anne Poelina, 2020.

Contributions

‘Once In A Blue Moon: Chair Nganka (Talk)’ by
Dr Anne Poelina

*‘Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council and the ANU Water
Justice Hub meet’* by Dr Kat Taylor, Dr Ana Manero, Prof.
Quentin Grafton

Design, Web & Print Production

Oethica Group Productions



Photo: *'Once in a Blue Moon: We Love You Martuwarra'* by Dr Alexander Hayes, 2020.



Photo: *'Cultural performance: Pampila (Hanson Boxer) at We Love You Martuwarra'* by Dr Alexander Hayes, 2020.



Photo: 'Honourable Josie Farrer MLA: *We Love You Martuwarra*' by Dr Alexander Hayes, 2020.



Photo: 'MCs Hozaus Claire & Mark Coles Smith: *We Love You Martuwarra*' by Dr Alexander Hayes, 2020.

Once In A Blue Moon: Chair Nganka (Talk) Dr Anne Poelina

The 'We Love You Martuwarra' event in Fitzroy Crossing on the 31st October was held under a beautiful Blue Moon, with our friends and partners, making the evening a great success.

A cultural presentation performed by Hanson Boxer, Walmajarri Senior Elder and Traditional Custodian was followed by a short historical film 'On Sacred Ground' by Rhonin Films. After an official welcome to guests MCs for the event Hozaus Claire and Mark Coles Smith shared the stage, showcasing the great work completed this year.



As official guests Associate Professor Sandra Wooltorton, Senior Research Fellow, at

Nulungu Research Institute, University of Notre Dame and Honourable Josie Farrer MLA, Australian politician, Labor Party member of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia the addressed the audience, as well as representatives Tim Nicols from Pew Trust and Martin Pritchard, Director of Environs Kimberley. This address was then followed by a shorts message sticks in the form of films from Professor Quentin Grafton, Australian National University (ANU) Water Justice Hub and the consultant researchers Jason Alexandra, Nadeem Samnakay who worked closely with the Martuwarra Council to develop our strategic planning document the 'Conservation and management plan for the National Heritage listed Fitzroy River Catchment Estate'.

It was wonderful to see our Friends of the Martuwarra from the Baaka (Darling) River region in Australia and hear their support message, 'to think seriously about the taking of water in the Martuwarra Fitzroy River,' as they are fearful for the region not to end up like the Murray Darling Basin (MDB). These message sticks as short films have been uploaded onto the Martuwarra Fitzroy River website and are available from <https://www.martuwarrafitzroyriver.org/liyan>

Once In A Blue Moon: Chair Nganka (Talk) Dr Anne Poelina

(Cont.)

A highlight of the evening were short films featuring the stories of young Aboriginal leaders from the Fitzroy region in Australia, filmed Stephanie King, as part of the Martuwarra Council Film Project managed by Gooniyandi and Bunuba Traditional Custodian, Hozaus Claire. These short films are available in the Martuwarra Council website at <https://martuwarrafitzroyriver.org/stories>

Dr Magali McDuffie filmed the event with the assistance of Pakam Media and will be producing a film incorporating all of these stories into a film for screening through Indigenous Community Television (ICT). The Martuwarra Council will also show this entire event set of films as an online streaming event in the near future. We will keep you updated on the screening and the other events planned over the coming months.

Water is the New Gold!

A 'local news style' video from the interview in Fitzroy with entrepreneurial journalist Daryl Vandenberg provided me with an opportunity to make the point that it would be unjust to proceed without a Statutory Authority and a Social License for engagement with everyone in the Shire of Derby West Kimberley. I emphasise the point that this must occur in good faith, with free and informed consent and the precautionary principles for the greater good of All!

Access the Youtube video here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whLF7Gmkf0s&t=60s>

For whose Greater Good?

On 6 November 2020, Hon. Ministers Kelly, MacTiernan, Dawson and Wyatt announced the release of the Managing Water in the Fitzroy River Catchment: Discussion paper for stakeholder consultation.

The paper is open for public comment until 5pm (WST) on Monday 31 May 2021.

Once In A Blue Moon: Chair Nganka (Talk) Dr Anne Poelina

(Cont.)

The Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council have submitted our Reports with our fifteen (15) Positions on the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Catchment Estate to government and the relevant Ministers. These reports are available for download from the Martuwarra Council website - <https://www.martuwarrafitzroyriver.org/publications>

RiverOfLife, M., Poelina, A., Alexandra, J., & Samnakay, N. (2020). *A conservation and management plan for the National Heritage listed Fitzroy River Catchment Estate (No. 1)*. Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council, Nulungu Research Institute, The University of Notre Dame Australia. <https://doi.org/10.32613/nrp/2020.4>

RiverOfLife, M., McDuffie, M., & Poelina, A., (2020). *Martuwarra Country: A historical perspective (1838-present)*. Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council; Nulungu Research Institute, The University of Notre Dame Australia. <https://doi.org/10.32613/nrp/2020.5>

The Greater Good through a Social Licence

Economic development in Australia, especially resource development, has purportedly long been pursued for the greater good of the nation and its people and is thus often equated to moral progress.

Yet, despite the celebrated spoils of the resources sector, Indigenous Australians have persistently been denied the benefits of economic progress owing to a history of colonialism, dispossession, segregation, and assimilation policies, which have contributed to the marginalisation of Indigenous people to the present day. Thus, this article asks whether orthodox resource-led development has a social licence, and importantly for whose greater good?

Poelina, A., Brueckner, M., and McDuffie, M. 2020. "For the greater good? Questioning the social licence of extractive-led development in Western Australia's Martuwarra Fitzroy River region." *The Extractive Industries and Society*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2020.10.010>.

Once In A Blue Moon: Chair Nganka (Talk) Dr Anne Poelina

(Cont.)

This paper applies a social licence lens to current water extraction proposals for Western Australia's remote *Martuwarra* Fitzroy River region where ecological values have largely remained intact and Indigenous people make up over 60 per cent of the population. It is argued the proposed water extraction plans hold little promise of serving either local or national interests when judged holistically and risk perpetuating adverse socio-cultural and ecological legacies from extractive activities for local Indigenous peoples. Within the *Martuwarra* Fitzroy River context, this paper seeks to redefine the 'greater good' and to articulate 'socially licenced' development alternatives without the ecological and cultural trade-offs typical of orthodox development.

The Martuwarra Council advocates for the political goodwill and research investment required to ensure the concept of 'Just Development' is based on Indigenous First Law. First Law incorporates Indigenous Lifeways and Livelihoods coupled with Western science and actioned through genuine Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), as identified in the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy (Department of Environment and Conservation 2011). When First Law is applied to the present and future development planning in the Kimberley region it is important to recognise that the following questions from the Martuwarra Council need to be fully explored from a social licence perspective:

- Who and what counts and is counted?
- How are values assigned?
- How do relationships between people and the 'natural' world work to produce value?
- How are existing values of the riverine system understood and measured?
- Whose laws and values matter?
- What impacts and risks are accurately predicted and deemed acceptable?
- Who gets to decide? And what kind of 'evidence' is weighed up in the decision-making process?
- How and where are decisions made?
- Whose visions of the future are being pursued?

Once In A Blue Moon: Chair Nganka (Talk) Dr Anne Poelina

(Cont.)

The notion of the “greater good” needs to be expanded to include Traditional Owners. Furthermore, there needs to be greater recognition of the enduring First Law of guardianship and authority of *Martuwarra* Traditional Owners of these natural assets. These natural assets are located on the estates that Traditional Owners have managed from the beginning of time through to today. In this time of climate change and global economic, human, social, cultural, and environmental uncertainty ¹, there is an opportunity to redefine the moral compass of development, by introducing the concept of a ‘social licence’ into water planning.

Sustainable water management requires holistic applied research to ensure Indigenous economies and values are included in the ‘greater good of all’. It is time to decolonise development and shift the paradigm towards ***just development on just terms***.

Nyikina Living Water Stories

Our Senior Nyikina Women elders Annie Milgin, Linda Nardea and Hilda Gray in partnership with Sarah Laborde and Sue Jackson produced their first peer reviewed scientific paper along with a Nyikina Seasonal Calendar and a Flow chart to show how to use the information for wise water planning research and development.

Their collective wisdom needs to be listened to, not only here but across the planet.

The paper is titled, ***Sustainability Crises are crises of relationships. Learning from Nyikina ecology*** and ethics. This paper is available from <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/pan3.10149>

¹ Indigenous land management is recognised for maintaining the world’s highest biodiversity values, underscoring that collaboration with Indigenous land stewards is essential in ensuring that species and ecosystems survive and thrive (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services 2019).

Once In A Blue Moon: Chair Nganka (Talk) Dr Anne Poelina

(Cont.)

Indigenous Researcher

Marlikka Perdrisat, Community Storyteller with the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council will soon take up an Indigenous researcher role, that of Community Researcher with the Martuwarra Council. This leadership role includes the research and production incorporating films, media articles, published papers, podcasts and facilitating webinars for the Martuwarra Council.

Marlikka published her first international paper which was co-authored by several authors from across the globe. The paper is titled, *Indigenous Natural and First Law in Planetary Health* and is available at <https://www.mdpi.com/2078-1547/11/2/29>

Marlikka's research through her film making is being recognised globally and she was asked to produce a short film *First Law and Planetary Health* which will opens the 9th Annual Conference Planetary Health on the 2nd of December, with the theme The theme: '*Broadening our vision to set the stage for Change*'! Access the event program here - <https://www.invivoplanet.com/program.html>

The short film can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/484701110>

Marlikka's film will be shown as the opening global statement before eminent human rights activist Professor Cornell West delivers his speech.

'KEYNOTE LECTURE: Cornel West (USA) is an acclaimed American philosopher, political activist, social critic, author, and public intellectual. **Beyond polarity: Seeking unity of spirit for all ideologies. A legacy of telling the truth and bearing witness to love and justice for people, place and planet.** He is Professor of the Practice of Public Philosophy at Harvard and as a Professor Emeritus at Princeton University. He has also taught at Union Theological Seminary, Yale, Harvard, and the University of Paris. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Harvard and obtained his M.A. and Ph.D from Princeton. He has written 20 books and has edited 13. He is a frequent guest on the Bill Maher Show, CNN, C-Span and Democracy Now. He made his film debut in the Matrix – and was the commentator on the official trilogy released in 2004. He has appeared in over 25 documentaries and films. He has a passion to communicate to a vast variety of publics to keep alive the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr'

Once In A Blue Moon: Chair Nganka (Talk) Dr Anne Poelina

(Cont.)

Marlikka also published an article in the website Junkee; *'Understanding the Role of First Law in Our Country'* which can be accessed at <https://junkee.com/understanding-first-law/278373>

Marlikka writes that Indigenous Peoples associate their own laws with the laws of the natural world, which are formally known as or translated as Natural or First Law. She states these laws come from the Creator and the Land through our ancestral stories and therefore, they are sacred. Marlikka frames the position All aspects of life and existence depend on living and following these natural First Laws. She affirms since colonization; Indigenous Peoples' Natural Laws have been forcibly replaced by modern-day laws that do not consider the sacred relationship between the Earth and all of her inhabitants. She makes the point the force of societies who live outside of Natural Law has ensured the modern-day consequences of not living in balance with nature.

The signs and observations Marlikka were taught about in her youth echoes the voices of the elders to *'look for the signs, up in the sky, down in the ground'* and now across the globe. The evidence paints the picture; pandemics and global environmental change, including climate change, are all consequences of not following the Natural Laws that are encapsulated by the interconnected nature of the universe. Her article evidences the Natural Law from an Indigenous paradigm and worldview which carries implications for planetary health and wider environmental movements around the globe.

This means that Marlikka's story telling work as a researcher has global meaning, merit and standing and is making an important contribution as a young leader setting the stage for transformative planetary wellbeing.

Note: The Martuwarra Council is seeking investment from Associates of the Martuwarra for the Community Story Tellers and Community Researchers programmes to strengthen their capacity to develop entrepreneurship and innovative to share knowledge across a range of platforms to share information, cooperate and collaborate in co-designing the future together. Please visit our Partnerships page in the Martuwarra Council for more information on how to engage with the Martuwarra Council - <https://www.martuwarrafitzroyriver.org/partnerships>



Photo: 'Edwin Mulligan: We Love You Martuwarra' by Dr Alexander Hayes, 2020.



Photo: 'Conversation: Mervyn Street with Martin Pritchard & Tim Nicol at We Love You Martuwarra' by Dr Alexander Hayes, 2020.

Once In A Blue Moon: Chair Nganka (Talk) Dr Anne Poelina

(Cont.)

Sacred People, Sacred Earth

My friend Philippa Rowland President, Multifaith Association of South Australia - *Let's Fight for Planet A* (see <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/fight-for-planet-a-our-climate-challenge>) & start Living the Change ! (See <https://livingthechange.net/>) - invited me to introduce the and launch the “*Sacred People, Sacred Earth*” statement and the organising of the accompanying Day of Action (see <https://www.arrcc.org.au/global>) on March 11.

The statement itself integrates our longing for justice for people who are marginalised and caring for the earth. There are 100 high-level faith leader signatories from all around the world and will be inviting sign-on by people of faith and spirit more generally. I spoke on the about impact of food insecurity and water scarcity, fossil fuel and water extraction, on Indigenous Australians and our First Nations communities in the light of escalating climate change impacts on Country and People.

More than 200 people attended and it was recorded live and will be shared as a TedX. Access this event here - <https://greenfaith.org/sacredpeoplesacredearth>

Please also visit these related websites;

- Green Faith - <https://www.greenfaith.org>;
- WOEK - <http://www.woek.de/>

A Message to the World

I received an invitation to present as part of a global project ‘*A Message to the World*’ as one of sixteen (16) Indigenous Wisdom Keepers.

The question we were asked was, ‘*What does the world need to hear right now?*’ These messages were launched on the 24th November and are available at <https://www.rootedmessages.com>

Once In A Blue Moon: Chair Nganka (Talk) Dr Anne Poelina

(Cont.)

Keynote Addresses

Please see the Martuwarra Fitzroy River website for the many national and global events at which I have provided keynote addresses - <https://www.martuwarrafitzroyriver.org/news>

For those of you who missed the "Beyond Sustainability: Imagining A Regenerative Future" QATAR Foundation Panel which I was part of please access here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Q9V1GTkw8c&feature=youtu.be>

Global Commons

In the Global Commons presentation '*Sharing the Commons of the Mardoowarra Fitzroy River Estate For our Greater Good*', my keynote address focused on a multidisciplinary approach to wisdom and wellbeing. The presentation fused First Law, culture, earth sciences, political science, economic and earth centred governance in the sharing and guardianship of 'Our Commons' for the greater good of humanity and the planet. The presentation incorporated ancient and contemporary Indigenous Australian, First Law and the rights of nature regarding the solutions required for planetary health and wellbeing.

Global Lake Ecological Observation Network (GLEON)

My presentation was a 20-minute film uploaded to reinforce '*Warloongarriy Law as First Law*'. The film showed the difference of First Law to White Man's Law, as senior Nyikina elder frames it, "*we try to explain these things to them ... but they don't know what we are talking about ... ours (First Law) is from Bookarrarra, the beginning of time*". The film combines First Law, Indigenous Science (traditional ecological knowledge), and the rights of nature as solutions for planetary health and human wellbeing and concludes with reference to climate chaos and uncertainty. The concluding frame, "*we must hold this land all together for all us*", as championed by Paddy Roe (1992).

Once In A Blue Moon: Chair Nganka (Talk) Dr Anne Poelina

(Cont.)

TEDX Talk Melbourne

A TEDX Melbourne perspective by Sam Amar on the sharing of stories from Anne Poelina, Anika and Simon Molesworth, three eminent defenders of the land, the environment and the protection of Australia's water ways. Access the TEDX talk here - <https://www.tedxm Melbourne.com/blog/tedx-perspective-protecting-australia-waterways>

Commonwealth Science Industry Research Organisation (CSIRO)

The CSIRO 'NAIDOC 2020' Theme 'Always Was, Always Will Be!' presentation I presented as a film '*Martuwarra Fitzroy River Always Was Always Will Be*' (35 mins).

It honours Martuwarra people's connection, relationship, and custodianship of our River Country for more than 65,000 years. We reflect together on the Martuwarra as a sacred ancestral being, with the right to live and flow. We show the partnerships we are creating and how this transformation is being framed through a bio-regional and earth centred governance approach. A governance model which is Indigenous led around the 'forever industries' of culture, science, technology, the arts, conservation and tourism. A governance approach at a catchment scale inclusive of ALL who have a relationship with the Martuwarra.

Reconciliation for Western Sydney

My online presentation (via Eventbrite) focused on the transformational work being done within the Martuwarra Council. "For the first time since the global recognition forty years ago of the 'Noonkanbah Strike' on my grandmother's Country, we have come together once more, for the greater good of our River Country.

In the year 2016 birthed the "Dream" of standing united through a Fitzroy River Declaration to promote and protect our sacred ancestral serpent being the Martuwarra, Fitzroy River.

Once In A Blue Moon: Chair Nganka (Talk) Dr Anne Poelina

(Cont.)

Through this dream we continued the talking and sharing ... *"The Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council position remains to work with government in the stewardship of our planet's greatest and most scarce resource, water. After 150 years of invasive development, it is time to do business differently, on just terms. The Martuwarra, Fitzroy River as a living ancestral serpent being, has the right to live and flow. First Law Multi-species Justice is the Indigenous spirit of connection, harmony, balance, and peace"*.

TEDx Perth

TEDxPerth Countdown, there was a range of speakers presenting their stories on their journey, experiences and ideas on how to transform to new innovative ways to develop the solutions '*We Can Change Climate Change*' going forward for reducing our emissions.

The recurring theme was we have less than a decade to halt the tipping point before we face increased human and species extinction. My presentation focused on the belief that, 'climate mitigation will only succeed when grounded in Indigenous and collective wisdom'. This gift requires fellow Australians, corporates and other investors, to 'Wake Up the Snake', wake up the consciousness of all people, we cannot continue business as usual.

To be woken up in the same way I was 'woken up' by a First Nations healer in Chicago who taught me that to be a human being is a privilege. To understand we have as human beings created this world we live in and our young people are inheriting and if we want to co-design the future now, we must be up to the challenge, '*if you want to be a brave then you have to be brave!*'

Indigenous Allied Health Online Conference: 1st- 3rd December (IAH) Staying Connected, Stronger Together.

My presentation advocates Martuwarra First Law is a vital ingredient for health and wellbeing to ensure multi-species justice for all.

Once In A Blue Moon: Chair Nganka (Talk) Dr Anne Poelina

(Cont.)

My presentation articulates the inextricable link between the health and wellbeing of our people and health of our River Country to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals as a critical message of advocacy which is reinforced within the Martuwarra Council's work.

The event program can be accessed here - <https://iaha.com.au/events/iaha-online-national-conference/>

University of Sydney -Sydney Environmental Institute Distinguished Speaker 2020: 9th December 2020

My presentation "*First Law a gift to healing and transforming Just Us!*", includes a short film, '*Warloongarriy Law First Law*' (20 mins). Access this events registration page here - <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/first-law-a-gift-to-healing-and-transforming-just-us-tickets-129407885469>

The presentation includes visual poetry to portray the meaning of 'First Law'. I will make the connection between the beginning of the Anthropocene and the attempts of humans to dominate and control the natural environment through technological and economic advancement have altered earth and human systems. As we move into 2021, the world earth systems are facing unprecedented risks pushing the planetary boundaries towards multi-species extinction and ultimate collapse. The Intergovernmental Partnership on Climate Change (IPCC, 2018) report contextualises the transformative changes needed to overcome the societal, economic, legal challenges and biodiversity threats associated with climate change.

I am, like so many Indigenous leaders globally, extending the gift of Indigenous First Law as a vital ingredient to give Mother Earth a climate chance. First Law stories as Indigenous Jurisprudence is one part of the collective wisdom, necessary to balance the planet, away from extinction. Together in a Law of Relationships between human and non-human beings, Indigenous people believe we can take these learning of First Law to reframe legal regimes and an ethics of care.

Once In A Blue Moon: Chair Nganka (Talk) Dr Anne Poelina

(Cont.)

A shift holistically from individualism back to ‘community-ism’, from the *me* to the *We*! The challenge is to take the gift of First Law offered by Australia’s original peoples as ways of knowing and being to address planetary collapse. We need to consider healing and re-imagining transformation, must begin with Just Us!”

Submission of my Doctoral thesis

As a researcher I am in the final stages of submitting my second doctoral thesis. The study provided me with the opportunity to learn and share with multiple disciplinary scientists, legal, and social research scholars to document the ongoing impact of the colonial approach of government and industry on Indigenous Australian people’s wellbeing.

The study affirmed there is increasing interest globally to recognizes the rights of nature, with First Law, customary law, particularly regarding the right for vital living rivers to flow. There is a wider sense of community concern regarding politically influenced decision-making models that are more that an attack on Indigenous Australians, rather they are a grave injustice on all Australians.

The study concludes showcasing the ongoing colonial and invasive power of the state remains conflicted with the cultural authority of Martuwarra Indigenous peoples. The study includes the view from the Martuwarra Council, which is that it is essential for governments and future industries, including their investors, maintain the health and majesty of the *River of Life* responsible for the regions rare and exotic plant and wildlife, culture, and people.

Only then can we as the original people of Western Australia and the guardians of the Martuwarra reclaim and reframe the power and authority of legal pluralism as framed in my thesis towards ‘*Martuwarra First Law Multi-species Justice for Land, Living Waters, and Indigenous Peoples Wellbeing*’.

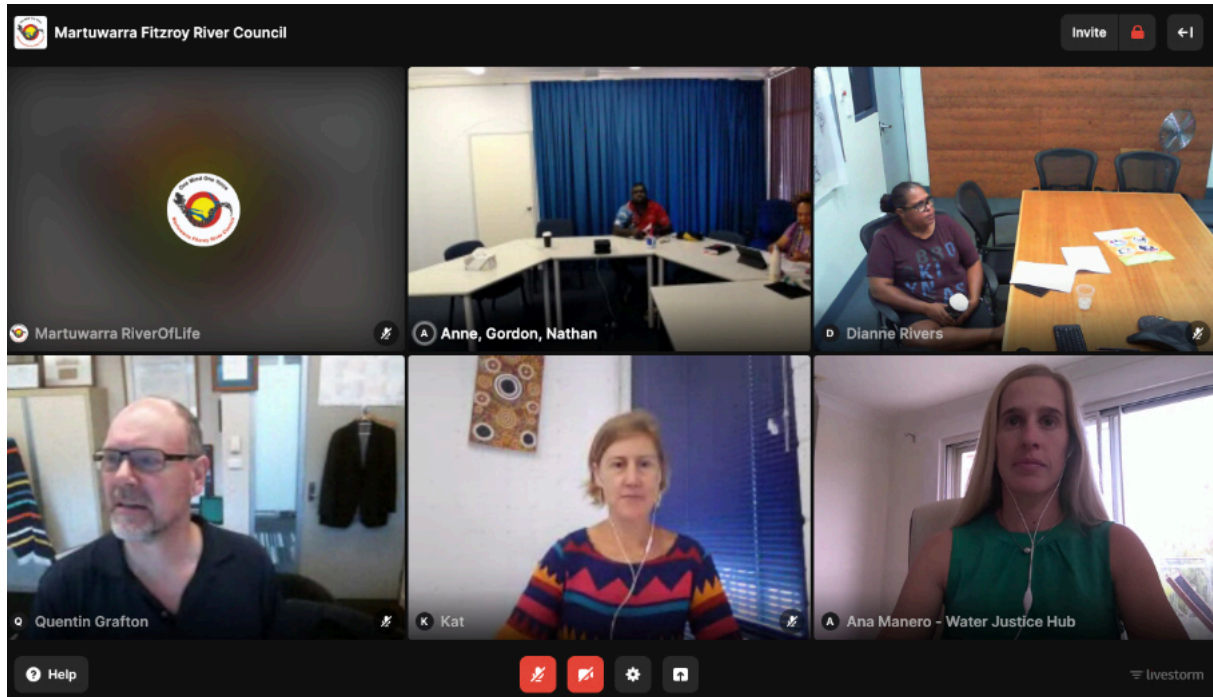


Photo: *'Olive Knight: We Love You Martuwarra'* by Dr Alexander Hayes 2020.



Photo: *'Mark Jones: We Love You Martuwarra'* by Dr Alexander Hayes 2020.

Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council and the ANU Water Justice Hub meet



Screenshot: Dr Alexander Hayes, 2020

Dr Kat Taylor, Dr Ana Manero and Prof. Quentin Grafton

On November 26th, the Martuwarra Council met with researchers from the Australian National University (ANU), Prof. Quentin Grafton, Dr Kat Taylor and Dr Ana Manero. The Council members and the researchers discussed collaborating through the Water Justice Hub. Using the Council's new online meeting place, they discussed some research options that might support water justice and the Council's new Conservation and Management Plan.

Prof. Grafton, Dr Taylor and Dr Manero were grateful for the opportunity to learn from the elders at the meeting. Council members reported signs that Country is already stressed from climate change and land clearing. Seasonal indicators are out of balance, which can be a warning sign of water, food and medicine insecurity. Mary Aiken, (Bunuba elder woman) emphasised the connected nature of surface and groundwater, and between the Margaret and Fitzroy rivers.

Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council and the ANU Water Justice Hub meet

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For the communities' wellbeing, future generations need to be able to learn about Country. As Gordon Smith Jnr (Ngarinyin man) said, 'truth comes from the ground up'.

Dr Taylor and Dr Manero also thanked the Council for the privilege of attending the 'We Love You Martuwarra' event in Fitzroy Crossing on October 31st.

The conversation between the Council and the Water Justice Hub researchers will continue.

Kimberley water plans: Have your say

The Western Australian government is asking for public comments on two (2) water plans. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) released the two documents in late November, about:

- How much water can be taken, and;
- The rules for taking water.

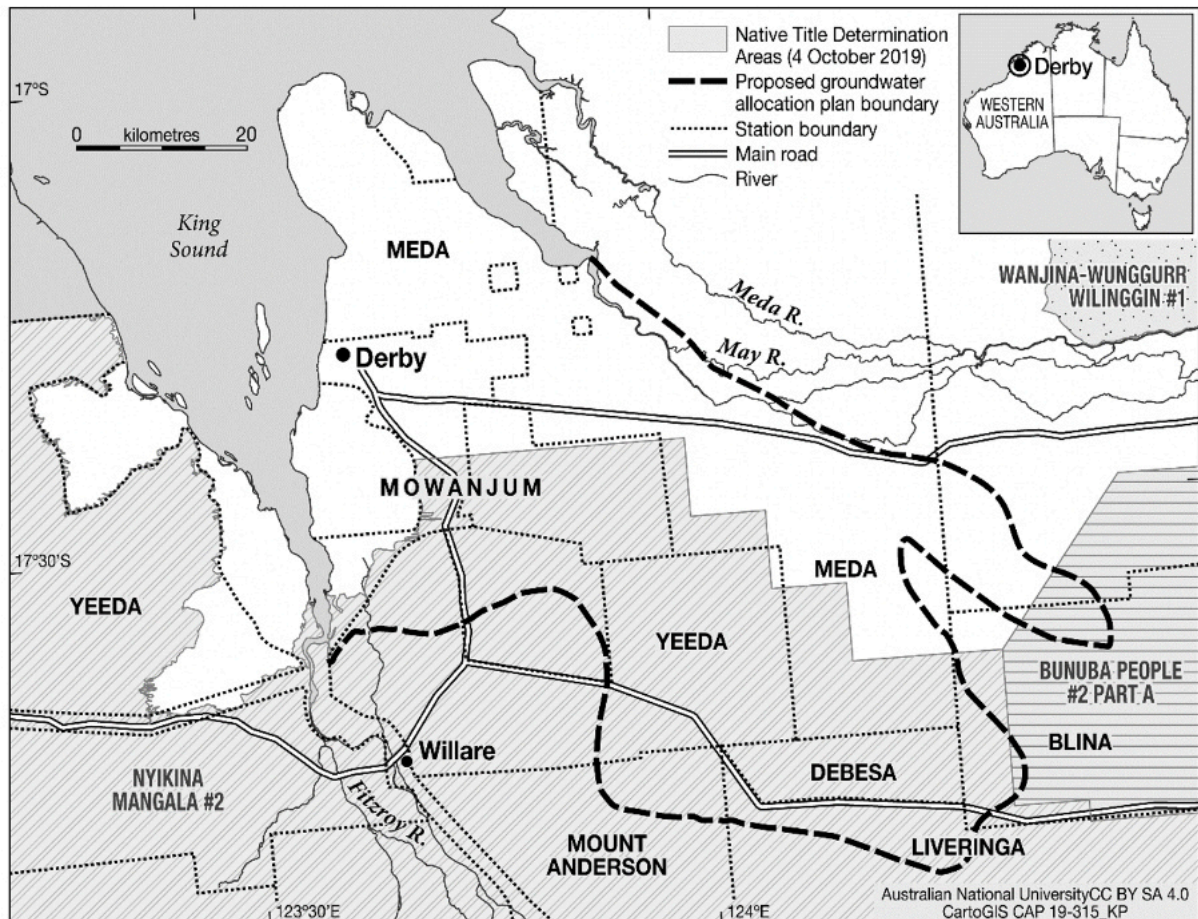
The *Derby Groundwater Allocation Plan* sets a water allocation limit for groundwater use in Derby and the area inland covering Mowanjum, Meda, Yeeda and Debesa stations. The '*Managing water in the Fitzroy River Catchment Discussion*' paper looks at groundwater and surface water in the Fitzroy catchment. It gives two options for allocation limits. The discussion paper asks for feedback on processes and rules that could be used in a future Fitzroy River allocation plan.

Comments on the Derby plan and Fitzroy discussion paper are due 31 May 2020.

<https://consult.dwer.wa.gov.au/water-policy/derby-groundwater-allocation-plan/>

<https://consult.dwer.wa.gov.au/water-policy/managing-water-in-the-fitzroy-river-catchment/>

Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council and the ANU Water Justice Hub meet



*Figure 1: Approximate boundary of proposed Derby groundwater allocation plan.
For exact boundary, please see DWER's draft plan.*



Photo: *'Wet season begins'* by Dr Anne Poelina, 2020.



Photo: *'Kajan Ngaba: Martuwarra flood waters in early flow'* by Dr Anne Poelina, 2020.



Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council Short Stories

Please re-share our stories

<https://www.martuwarrafitzroyriver.org/stories>

Thank you for reading our newsletter.

Please encourage others to visit the
Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council website at
<https://www.martuwarrafitzroyriver.org>

**This newsletter has been brought to you by the
Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council located in
Fitzroy Crossing in the Kimberley Region of
Western Australia.**