

Opinion

Kimberley in peril

Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett must talk to pastoralists in the Kimberley and consult the State Government before he runs off on his 'green agenda' to heritage list 17 million hectares of the Kimberley.

If this listing goes forward, the detrimental economic ramifications for WA in the agriculture and resources sector will be massive.

The current impact of green and red tape that agriculture faces already makes it tough for farmers and pastoralists to stay viable without more constraints that heritage listing would

bring.

Consultation with the State Government and all industry stakeholders in agriculture and resources must be undertaken before any moves to heritage list are even considered.

So much for wall-to-wall Labor and claims by the Carpenter Government of better outcomes for West Australians under a Labor Government.

It is totally outrageous that Kim Chance was not informed of this move by Peter Garrett.

Don't these wise men from the East understand how difficult it is for cattle

producers right now?

Input costs are outstripping returns on cattle and any additional costs, which would invariably flow on from such a listing, would kill off the cattle industry in the Kimberley altogether.

The agricultural sector is already facing flow-on costs from the new Carbon Emissions Trading Scheme.

What else does the Rudd Government have up its sleeve to add to production costs?

Gary Snook
Shadow Minister for Agriculture