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**KIMBERLEY**  
INC



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday 15 April 2009

### **Community views sought on Fitzroy River fishway proposal**

Environs Kimberley (EK) and the Yiriman Project are holding meetings this week in Looma, Jarlmadangah and Fitzroy Crossing to consult with local people about the possible construction of a fishway at the Camballin Barrage.

Feedback from the meetings will be incorporated into a scoping report, to be released next month, examining the potential design and the feasibility of a fishway. Funding for the scoping study has been provided by Rangelands NRM using funds from the Commonwealth Government's Natural Heritage Trust.

Previous research led by Dr Dave Morgan from Murdoch University has identified the need for a fishway to help fish, including the threatened Freshwater Sawfish, swim over the barrage when river levels drop in the dry season.

Dr Morgan will make a presentation to the community meetings and answer questions about the fishway design that the technical consultancy team has been working on.

EK's Freshwater Project Officer, Dr Gary Scott, said: "This is a chance for the local community to let the consultants know what they think about a fishway and the project as a whole".

"People go fishing along the river and sometimes camp down by the barrage. We'd like to know whether they think a fishway will be beneficial to both the environment and the community".

"A fishway would allow fish to swim further upriver for longer each year, so we'd also like to hear from people in the Fitzroy Crossing area who use the river upstream from the barrage," said Dr Scott.

The Fitzroy Crossing meeting is being held at 10am Friday 17 April at the Karrayili Adult Education Centre.

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