



MEDIA RELEASE

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Cyclone Rains Long Term Benefits Denied Under McGowan Govt

The drenching rains brought by ex-Tropical Cyclone Esther have highlighted the lack of water catchment infrastructure throughout the Kimberley according to the Pastoralists & Graziers Association of WA.

“With the Kimberley recording some of the highest rainfall totals in the past two years, it is an absolute disgrace that pastoralists in the Fitzroy River catchment area are being denied the opportunity to capture and store this welcome rain under the McGowan government’s *No Dams* policy,” PGA President Tony Seabrook said.

“For the past two years, Kimberley pastoralists have been struggling with water due to the poor wet seasons, with 2019 being one of the driest seasons on record,” he said.

“And while the recent drenching that came from Esther crossing the Kimberley is welcome relief for pastoralists, it is unfortunately short lived, as there is no ability to capture the rising flood waters in the Fitzroy catchment area, which means hundreds of gigalitres of much needed fresh water will flow uncaptured into the ocean.

“This is a wasted opportunity not only for pastoralists but for all residents in WA’s north as well.

“Unlike other States, WA doesn’t have a water supply problem, it has a water access problem.

“Yet policies including ensuring no dams on the Fitzroy River only serve to hinder the growth and development of our northern cattle and agricultural industries.”

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