

Traditional Owners’ response to stories about the future of the Fitzroy River Basin

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In collaboration with members of the following Aboriginal Corporations: Bunuba Dawangarri, Gooniyandi, Walalakoo, Wilinggin, Yanunijarra, and Yungngora.

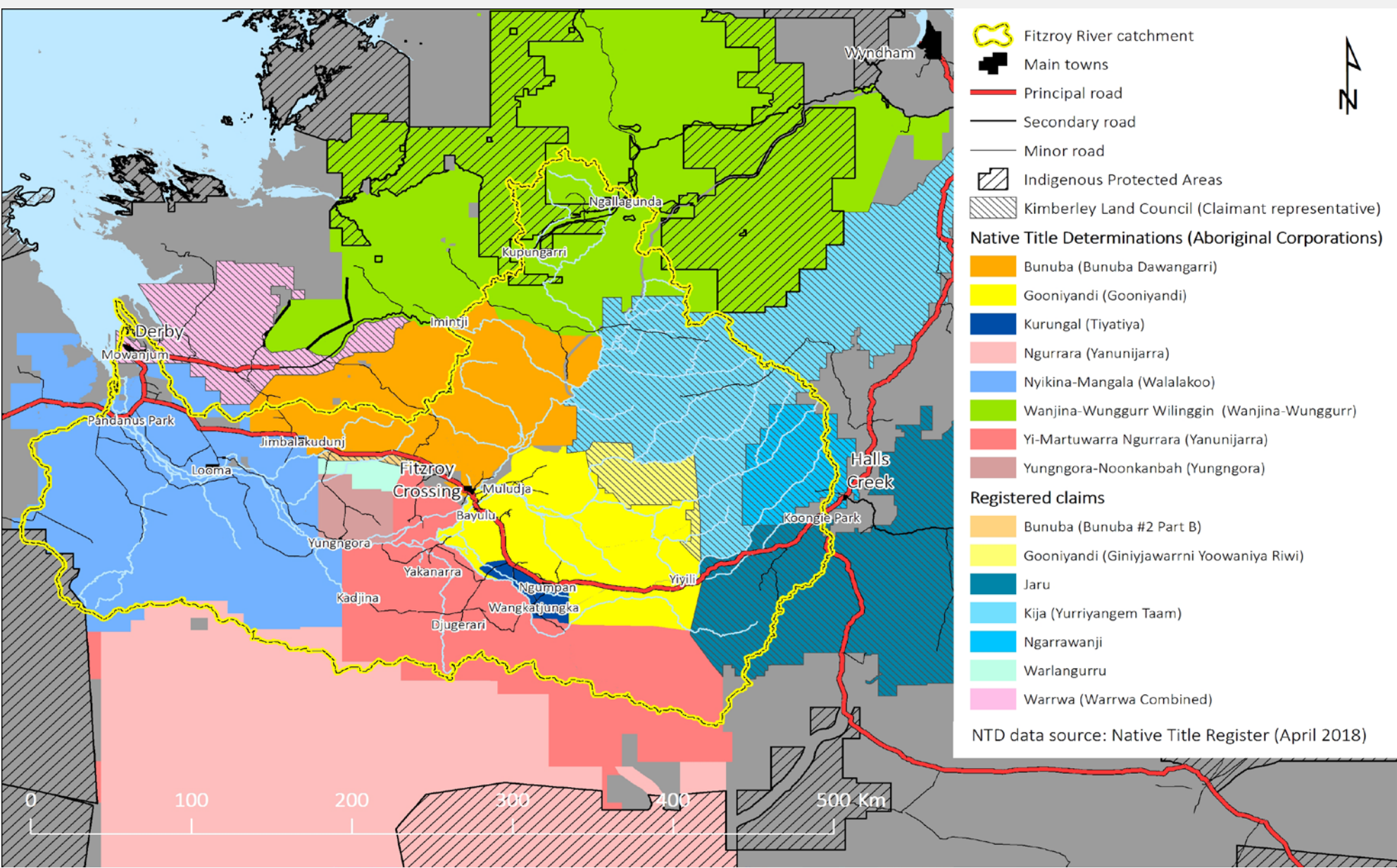
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Getting together to think about the future of the Fitzroy River basin

WA government is discussing conservation, water allocation, land use, and economic development plans for the Fitzroy River basin.

People want changes to improve the lives of the residents, but many disagree on what changes are necessary.

What types of development and conservation activities **could** happen? How would the Fitzroy basin area look like in 30, 40 years?



Traditional Owners from six Indigenous organisations, pastoralists, environmental groups, industry, government, and researchers are getting together in three workshops. They will think about what **could happen** in the region and create scenarios (stories) about the future of the Fitzroy River basin.



The scenarios include narratives, maps of future land/water uses, and associated changes in the landscape, including: vegetation cover, habitat for plants and animals, water flowing in the river; access to places of cultural importance and jobs.

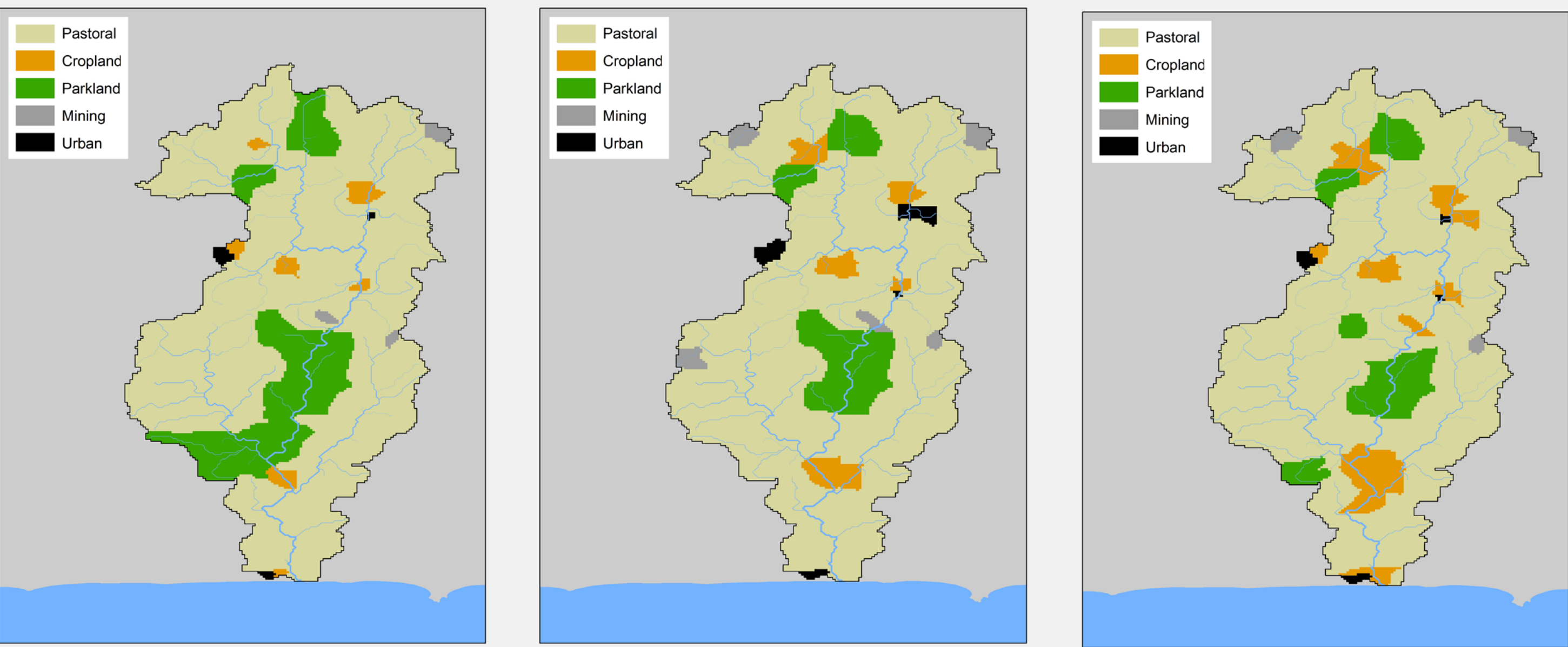


Figure showing a hypothetical catchment under three alternative scenarios of future land uses for illustrative purpose only

How could each development path affect people living in the region?

How could changes associated with the scenarios affect (positively and negatively) the wellbeing of people living in the region?

We will answer that question with Traditional Owners and pastoralists in two separate workshops. We will explain the scenarios and project the maps showing future land uses on the 3D model.

Assuming the changes in a given scenario come true, how would they affect the wellbeing of different groups?

For each scenario, we will discuss changes in different aspects of wellbeing, which will be culturally and language translated before the workshop. The wellbeing factors include access to:

Knowledge and Heritage



Food and clean water



Meaningful occupation



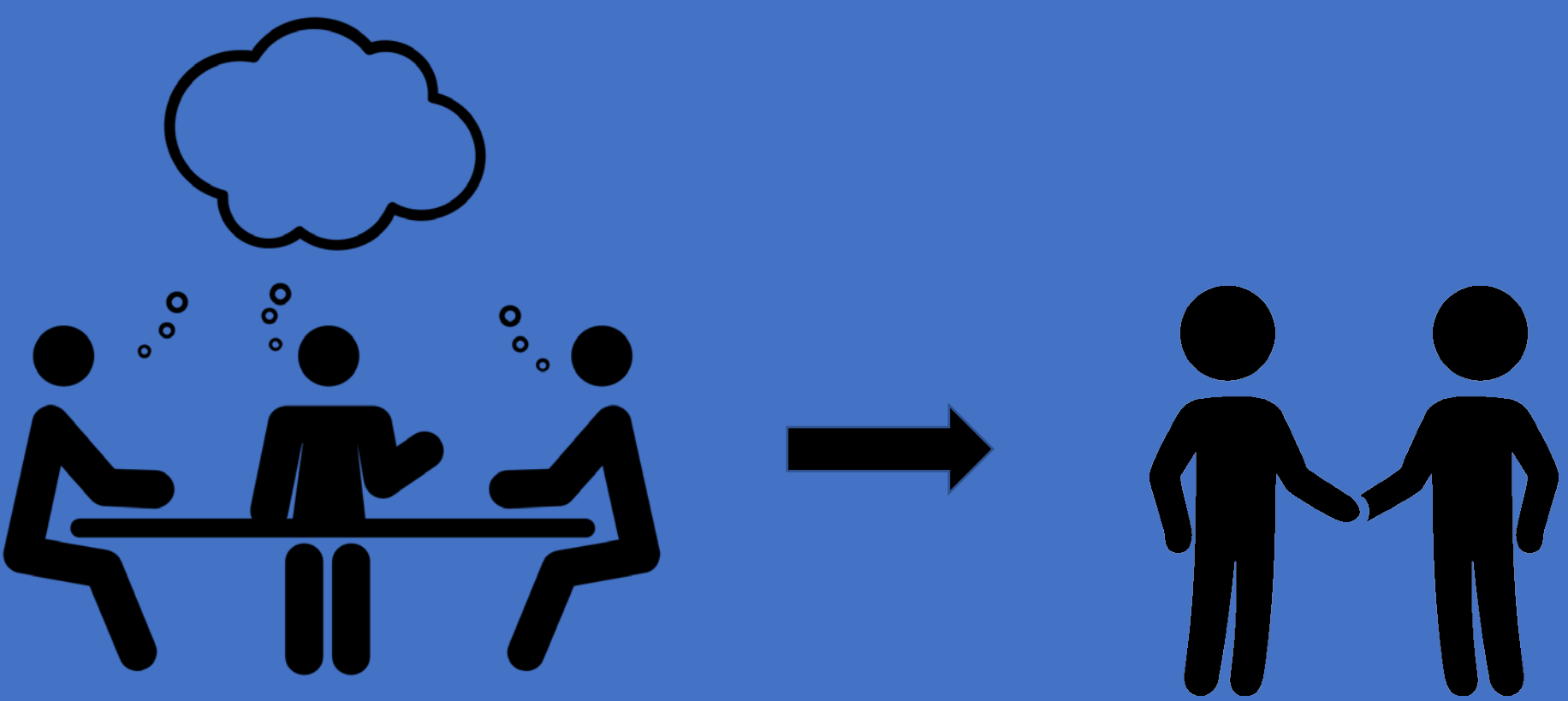
A good time with family and friends



Wellbeing factors	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
Access to knowledge-heritage			
Food and clean water			
Meaningful occupation			
Good time with family			

Conclusion

We are designing, in collaboration with Indigenous organisations and experts, a way to help Traditional Owners looking at changes in the future and thinking about how those changes could affect their wellbeing. This can be a useful tool for Traditional Owners to identify and plan for future trajectories they want to pursue or avoid.



The use of the same (translated) wellbeing factors for different groups allows for the identification of win-win or win-lose situations. These may be used by Traditional Owners to support their discussions and negotiations about the future with other groups like government and industry.