

# HON. ROBIN CHAPPLE MLC

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## **Greens MLC Robin Chapple calls on Ben Wyatt to assist in the acquisition of the pastoral land for Traditional Owners in Fitzroy Crossing**

Greens Member for Mining and Pastoral Robin Chapple MLC is calling upon Indigenous Affairs Minister Ben Wyatt to weigh in on a deal by WA's Andrew Forrest over cattle stations in the Kimberley.

The current binding contract for the transfer of the combined pastoral leases in Jubilee Downs and Quanbun Downs is being reviewed by the Department of Lands, Culture and Heritage for compliance.

However, Mr Chapple has expressed strong reservations about the inequity of Traditional Ownership in the area and the validity of a homestead purchased in the acquisition that was built over a stock route.

*"The valuation of that homestead raised the price of the property beyond what the Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation could afford but in reality it has no value because it's not supposed to be there"*

*"They may as well have built a house on a highway and now this defective title is resulting in even more anguish for a group that is only asking for the smallest modicum of agency at considerable cost"*

*"Mr Wyatt still has the power to step in and see justice delivered, we implore him to consider the many positives that his intervention could have for people and Country"*

The Member is asking the State Government to halt the transaction and encourage the sale of the land to the Traditional Owners of the region the Yi-Martuwarra Ngurrara people; who to date possess only Native Title acknowledgement but have not land or pastoral leases to Country from which to grow a future.

Mr Chapple also questioned the desire of Mr Forest to connect to some common legacy in his bid for the land, considering his family's questionable historical relationship to the First Nations peoples in the area.

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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