

Leaders face human chain of protest over Kimberley industrial expansion

**MICHAEL HOPKIN
and AMANDA BANKS**

Alan Carpenter and Colin Barnett were confronted by environmental activists yesterday over the lack of firm plans for regulating industrial development in the Kimberley.

Protesters formed a human chain to deliver thousands of postcards calling for a stronger commitment to protecting the region's unique ecosystems.

They urged both parties to pledge no industrial developments before ecosystems have been fully assessed.

Industrial expansion in the Kimberley has become a divisive issue.

Tensions have been heightened by the gas firm Inpex's perceived threat

to move much of its \$25 billion planned investment in gas processing to Darwin, and by continued uncertainty over the location of the region's planned LNG processing hub.

Mr Carpenter promised Labor would protect the Kimberley coast and newly found whale sanctuary.

"We will protect that area, unlike Colin Barnett who seems to think it is OK for a multinational overseas company to pinpoint wherever it wants on the Kimberley coast for a massive industrial development and just give them the tick without any assessment whatsoever," Mr Carpenter said.

Mr Barnett "made positive noises about protection," said Wilderness Society spokesman Josh Coates.