

Thompson lends voice to campaign

ONE of the stars of Baz Luhrmann's Australia has joined conservation groups in the fight to save the Kimberley from industrialisation.

Actor Jack Thompson has recorded a voiceover to accompany a cinema advertising campaign launched last week to coincide with screenings of Australia across Perth.

The campaign urges West Australians to 'Act now' by sending a message to Premier Colin Barnett.

Mr Thompson says in the recorded voiceover: "The Kimberley, one of Australia's last great wildernesses, is under serious threat from industrialisation. Why can't we leave this special part of the planet untouched?"

"Act now to save the Kimberley, and remember, we'll never get it back," the

voice over concludes. The Barnett Government announced a short-list of preferred sites for a gas processing hub on the Kimberley coast in October.

The Premier said the government's favoured site for the large-scale industrial development was North Head on the Dampier Peninsula, about 120km north of Broome.

Green groups argue the area is of international environmental importance and is used as a breeding ground by hundreds of humpback whales annually.

Wilderness Society WA Kimberley Campaigner Josh Coates said Mr Thompson had long been passionate about Australia's environment and the organisation was delighted to have his help in protecting the Kimberley.