

## Australia star urges govt to 'Keep Kimberley wild'

- **Chris Thomson**
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*Australia* star Jack Thompson has lent his voice to a cinema advertising campaign demanding the Barnett Government protect WA's remote Kimberley region from development.

The Thompson voiceover was launched today to coincide with the first Perth screenings of the much-hyped movie, tomorrow.

"The Kimberley, one of the world's last great wildernesses, is under serious threat from industrialisation," Thompson's baritone says in the campaign recording.

"Why can't we leave this special part of the planet untouched?

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

Premier Colin Barnett and the Kimberley Land Council are on a potentially fiery collision course over a proposed gas development at North Head, near the remote Kimberley community of Beagle Bay.

Wilderness Society WA campaigner Josh Coates said Australian film legend Thompson had taken time out to record his message before he flew to the US to promote the epic flick.

"Mr Thompson has long been passionate about Australia's environment and we are delighted to have his help in protecting our amazing Kimberley from current ill-conceived industrialisation plans," Mr Coates said.

Conservation Council of WA Director Piers Verstegen said the future of the Kimberley was increasingly a national and international issue and films like *Australia*, partially shot in the Kimberley, served to highlight WA's global responsibility to protect the area.

"The advertising campaign will coincide with screenings of the highly anticipated *Australia* over the next month and we will be urging thousands of West Australians to act now by sending a message to Premier Barnett," Mr Verstegen said.

"The WA government has spent millions of dollars on producing its own tourism advertising campaign to coincide with the movie and to highlight the extraordinary natural values of the Kimberley.

"This clearly demonstrates how valuable the Kimberley is to our tourism industry in its pristine state."

On November 18, Thompson attended the [world premiere](#) of *Australia* in Sydney with fellow stars Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman.