



MEDIA RELEASE

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WA Premier Kimberley environment promises unraveling

WA Premier Colin Barnett's promises to protect the Kimberley environment have been broken, according to conservation group Environs Kimberley.

The Premier assured environment group Environs Kimberley at a meeting in December 2008 that a rare remnant rainforest community in the Damper Peninsula, known as Monsoon Vine Thickets, would not be adversely affected by the Woodside LNG proposal, a claim he repeated on ABC Radio on 27th January, 2010.

"There are those small areas of remnant rain forest. I haven't been on the ground, but I've certainly flown over them, and they are quite unique and therefore areas that will be protected. The actual site of the LNG plant is a small area on the coast. ... It is a small area and it's not the area of the rainforest, the remnant rainforest that will be affected, that will not be affected in any way whatsoever." WA Premier Colin Barnett, 720 ABC Mornings with Geoff Hutchison, Wed 27 January, 2010.

At a meeting in Broome with the Premier at the weekend, Environs Kimberley informed him that, according to the Department of State Development, 128 hectares of this Threatened Ecological Community is to be cleared for a corridor of oil, gas and chemical pipelines.

"The Premier backed away from his promise to us and the WA public," said Environs Kimberley Director Martin Pritchard. "It's becoming increasingly clear that Mr Barnett is only interested in industrialising the Kimberley and not in protecting its globally important environmental values."

Media Contact: Martin Pritchard, Environs Kimberley: 08 9192 1922 or 0427 548 075