

# Media Statement – 20th April 2010

## **Don't fail the whales.com New campaign puts Premier Barnett on notice**

West Australians are being asked to join a new campaign launched today to help protect 22,000 humpback whales that feed and breed off the Kimberley coast.

WA's leading environmental organisations – the Council Conservation of WA, The Wilderness Society and Environs Kimberley – launched Don't Fail The Whales ([www.dontfailthewhales.com](http://www.dontfailthewhales.com)), calling on the Premier to keep to his promise to protect the calving grounds off the Kimberley coast.

Conservation Council of WA Director Piers Verstegen said "The Kimberley coast from Broome to Camden Sound, including the proposed site for a massive LNG hub is the most important calving ground for humpback whales in the world."

"WA Premier Colin Barnett has personally committed to creating a marine park at Camden Sound to protect the whales."

"In the next few weeks, the WA Government will make critical decisions on the size of the new marine park, and how much of the area will be fully protected as sanctuary areas.

"Unfortunately, at the moment all signs are the Premier is set to break his promise," he said.

"Only a large park with substantial sanctuaries will ensure the unique marine life in the areas is able to breed and feed without the effects of industrial development and overfishing.

"We are particularly concerned that continued bottom trawling will be allowed in the new marine park. This would be like allowing clear-felling in a national park."

"We need West Australians to send a very clear message to the Premier. We strongly encourage the community to sign the petition at [www.dontfailthewhales.com](http://www.dontfailthewhales.com) and hold the WA Government account for their promise to protect Kimberley whales."

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