

## A groundbreaking new TV series

**T**ammy Clarkson may not have dreamed about becoming an actor when she was a child, but after a decade in the industry that has culminated in her first major television role, it seems that it must have always been her destiny.

"Acting was something that I totally fell into" says the 21-year-old, who scored a starring role in *The Circuit*, a new series starting next month on SBS that also stars Aboriginal actors Aaron Pedersen, Kelton Pell and LeRoy Parsons.

The series follows the trials and tribulations of city lawyer Drew Ellis (Aaron Pedersen) who decides to expand his horizons with a stint at an outback Aboriginal Legal Service in the Kimberley. Drew quickly finds himself out of his depth as he attempts to negotiate the challenging world of the Kimberley Circuit Court that sees a magistrate and an entourage of court officers and lawyers travelling on regular five day, 2000km round-trips to dispense justice in the remote communities of North Western Australia.

Tammy plays Bella Noble, Clerk of Courts, who works alongside Drew as he adjusts to his new role, developing a strong and supportive relationship with him as time passes.

The series deals with the many issues that remote Aboriginal communities face, and will be a real eye-opener for many non-Indigenous viewers.

"I don't know how I managed to get where I am," says Tammy, who grew up in Geraldton, WA. "I mean, I never had any

leaders or anybody telling me, or showing what I could do with my life.

"It's a miracle that I got it together, really, I absolutely believe that angels took me out of that kind of lifestyle that a lot of us get stuck in and really helped me get to where I am today."





## PREPARATION BEFORE READING

Tammy Clarkson will take on her first major television role in the new SBS drama series *The Circuit*. Aaron Pederson, Kelton Pell and LeRoy Parsons will also star in the series.

The story follows city lawyer Drew Ellis (Pederson) to the Kimberley region in Western Australia where he decides to work for the Aboriginal Legal Service for a short time.

The series looks at the challenges of the circuit court system that operates in remote communities of north Western Australia and deals with the many issues that remote Aboriginal communities face.

Tammy Clarkson plays Bella Noble, who works alongside Drew. She talks about how important acting has been for her to improve her life.

## ACTIVITY 1: READ A GROUNDBREAKING NEW TV SERIES ON PAGE 8

Scanning for specific information

1. Who are the four main Indigenous actors in *The Circuit*?

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2. What does Tammy Clarkson mean when she says, "Acting was something that I totally fell into"?

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3. Briefly summarise what the series is about.

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4. What role does Tammy Clarkson play in the series?

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5. Tammy Clarkson grew up in Geraldton, WA.

TRUE                  FALSE



6. How has her acting career been life-changing for Tammy?

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7. What is the main purpose for writing this report?

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## **ACTIVITY 2: MORE ABOUT THE KIMBERLEY REGION OF NORTHERN WA**

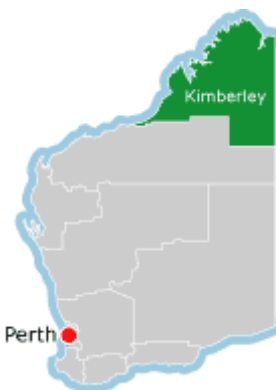
The Kimberley region is located in the northern part of Western Australia, extending from Broome in the west to Kununurra and Lake Argyle in the east, from the sea to a bit south of the main Great Northern Highway.

Often described as one of the world's last great wildernesses, the Kimberley has an immense and complex landscape that encompasses spectacular gorges, waterfalls and cave systems, pockets of lush rainforest and an astonishing variety of wildlife.

Huge turtles, predatory fresh and saltwater crocodiles share this ancient land with Australia's unique marsupial kangaroos and wallabies. Floral treasures abound including many coloured wildflowers, waterlilies, pandanus palms, fan palms and magnificent boab trees.

The Kimberley has only three towns with a population of more than 2,000 (Broome, Derby and Kununurra), and the total population is only around 25,000. Access to much of the region is by dirt road (often impassable in the wet season), air (a helicopter is necessary for many parts) or sea.

The Kimberley is a vast and pristine area that is an unforgettable adventure to explore.



### **Getting there**

#### **You have several choices:**

- Take a tour from Darwin, Perth, or elsewhere and let them arrange all the transportation
- Fly or take a bus to Broome, Derby or Kununurra and take a tour or rent a vehicle there
- Take the bus and get off in one of the small towns along the way
- Drive your own vehicle or a rent a four-wheel drive vehicle.

([www.kdc.wa.gov.au](http://www.kdc.wa.gov.au))



### **ACTIVITY 3: DESIGN A TRAVEL BROCHURE**

Using the information above and your own ideas, create a travel brochure and set out an itinerary to persuade visitors to come to the Kimberley for a 10 day adventure holiday.

Think of a specific audience to target.

Include illustrations, photos and maps.