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— **Rear Window**

# Gina Rinehart tries to out-Aussie the most Aussie men on the continent

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*Columnist*



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That cloudy haze you see on the far horizon? It's the bulldust that's flying between the two aspirant owners of the Kidman cattle empire as each tries to out-Aussie the other in a desperate (and we'd submit, largely pointless) attempt to win hearts and minds.

Clearly unsettled by the emergence of competition in the shape of fellow bidders BBHO, **Gina Rinehart's** Hancock Prospecting released a statement on Tuesday, claiming (among other assertions of equal ludicrousness) that their bid was by far the superior one [<http://www.afr.com/business/agriculture/gina-rinehart-makes-400-million-uk-fertiliser-investment-20161025-gsadm9>] because it was more Australian.

"The Hancock JV bid is an Australian bid – you don't get much more Australian than fourth generation Australian Gina Rinehart," reads the statement by Hancock CEO, **Garry Korte** – conveniently neglecting to mention it is being undertaken hand-in-glove with the Chinese company Shanghai CRED, whose name, interestingly enough, does not appear once in the two-page document.



Tom Brinkworth – never met a meal that wasn't enhanced by SAXA. Nic Walker

## Grandad clause

"We will encourage the Kidman heritage and legacy to be maintained, a heritage shared in part with **James Nicholas**, Mrs Rinehart's grandfather, and long-term friend and business partner of Sir **Sidney Kidman**," the statement continues, invoking what is otherwise popularly known in investment circles as the *My Grandfather Knew His Grandfather* clause.

And then, curiously of all, a boast about how the Hancock bid actually reduces the level of foreign investment from its current 34 per cent to 33 per cent. A whole percentage point. Whoop-de-freaking-doo.

Which says nothing of the fact that the BBHO bid is comprised of four Australian pastoral families [<http://www.afr.com/business/agriculture/the-four-bbho-families-battling-gina-rinehart-and-china-for-skidman--co-20161024-gs99ki>] – one of which is big in road trains and another of which (as our photos reveal) is lead by a crusty old patriarch who buys industrial quantities of SAXA salt to season his outback cattle station meals and has a collection of stuffed animals in his living room. I mean seriously, how can you possibly out-Aussie that?



Tom Brinkworth in his living room. The man shoots and stuffs things. I mean, seriously? Who's going to out-Aussie that? **Nic Walker**

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