

Bimblebox: rejecting, not pleading

One aspect of Simon Green's excellent article (CQ News 19/11/10) came as an unpleasant shock to me.

As co-owner of Bimblebox Nature Refuge, I have not accepted that I have been left "with no other option than to appeal to the compassionate side of the Waratah Coal chairman".

It is not easy to agree to such a corrupt and compromised reality – to do so would surely be to

support a total failure of government policy. Neither am I convinced that mining companies have compassion when it comes to dispossessing people (and other species) of their land and sense of place.

Mining companies have the right to target areas set aside for conservation by the State and Federal departments of environment because of a long-standing bias in our laws which favors mining over virtually all other activities.

And now an 'off-sets' loophole allows mining

companies to destroy areas of high-value conservation by buying other areas of similar value which can in turn also be destroyed. Continual off-setting followed by destruction of protected areas is the ultimate win-win for mining companies and lose-lose for landholders.

Perhaps, as reported, I really am being "forced to plead with (a) mining billionaire" to protect land which the state and federal governments had agreed would be preserved in perpetuity.

Paola Cassoni