



The Coordinator-General  
Attn. EIS project manager – Galilee Coal Project  
Significant Projects Coordination  
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation  
PO Box 15517  
City East Qld 4002

19 December 2011

**Submission on Waratah Coal's proposed Galilee Coal Project (Northern Export Facility)  
(also known as China First Coal Project)**

Dear Coordinator-General,

Queensland Conservation (QCC) is implacably opposed to mining activities being allowed on a nature refuge. We believe that a firm principle should be upheld-that is-that areas set aside as nature refuges should be permanently protected.

The Queensland Government has committed to increasing the Protected Area Estate to 7.5% of Queensland. That commitment includes nature refuges as a part of the Protected Area Estate. If nature refuges such as Bimblebox are allowed to be destroyed, it effectively means that no nature refuge is safe from a similar fate. It makes the governments commitment little more than a sham. The Protected Area Estate must be a protected area estate.

As a result, QCC urges you to refuse this proposal and make recommendations towards establishing the permanent protection of the Bimblebox Nature Refuge.

Queensland environment and conservation organisations have proposed that all nature refuges must be given a class of protection that specifically guarantees permanent protection, complies with IUCN Categories I and II (prevents mining and grazing); and IUCN Categories III and IV (prohibits mining and allows strategic ecologically sustainable

Waratah Coal's EIS clearly states that the mine would have massive negative effects on Bimblebox Nature Refuge. The ecological integrity of Bimblebox would be destroyed, with 52% of the property excavated for an open-cut mine and the remainder subject to long-wall underground mining. The open-cut mine would involve the destruction of 3,926 hectares of remnant native vegetation to create an open pit, and thus the extant habitat could never be rehabilitated.

166 Ann St, Brisbane, QLD 4000  
Ph: 07 3221 0188  
Fax: 07 3229 7992

ABN: 89 717 887 219  
[manager@qccqld.org.au](mailto:manager@qccqld.org.au)  
[www.qccqld.org.au](http://www.qccqld.org.au)

Queensland Conservation urges you to protect the Bimblebox Nature Refuge and draws your attention to the more detailed submission from the custodians of Bimblebox and to the many submissions made by individual Queenslanders, equally concerned about the precedent that would be set by allowing this proposal to go ahead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'T' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Toby Hutcheon  
Queensland Conservation