

China First has been approved but the fight to protect Bimblebox has only just begun



Bimblebox Updates

Dear Bimblebox Supporters,

Alpha mining boom has turned to [bust](#)!

The mine hasn't even started, and while many in the small country town of Alpha keep dreaming of riches, most landowners, including the Bimblebox owners, are breathing a sigh of relief. It's a temporary respite, as the thermal coal price could rise in the next few years, and with an ensuing potentially revamped mining frenzy, the coal under Bimblebox would again become a sought after global commodity.

The government approvals for the Waratah Coal project are in place now, viable until 2073. A long time indeed to live with the threat over our heads of relinquishing our Nature Refuge to the dozers.

Introducing The Bimblebox Alliance Inc. (TBA)

During the past six years, issues were raised in a wide range of forums to try to change the government's flawed legislation that allows mining on protected areas. However, not much would have been achieved without the efforts of our few but resolute volunteers.

As there seems to be some truce in our battle against the mine, we have taken on the extra task of formalising this organic groundswell of help for Bimblebox. It is our sincere hope that owners of other nature refuges and private conservation areas and believers in the cause would take advantage of our [collective experience](#) and build on it by becoming members of the new TBA.

We want to preserve what little is left of our biodiversity and there are many enemies from 'within' that we need to keep at bay, such as exotic species, feral animals and wild fires. TBA will help to understand and reconcile the outside threats of mining and other inappropriate development. We need to be prepared for the next rounds, and we hope many of you will join us as [members](#). At the moment there is a one-off fee of \$10 to become a member which will help with the running costs.

Minister overturns Land Court recommendation

It didn't matter how long Judge Paul Smith took to read and understand the objections on the uncertainties surrounding the security of groundwater in the Land Court challenge against GVK Hancock draft Environmental Authority, because his landmark recommendation

in April 2014 to refuse the approval, or approve with additional conditions was [overturned by the State Environment Minister](#).

The GVK/Hancock Alpha Coal project is one of the nine megamines proposed for the area and about 10 km from Bimblebox Nature Refuge. To safeguard the groundwater for both the Nature Refuge and for stock and domestic use, [Paola Cassoni](#) was one of the three [landowners](#) that lodged objections to the mine.

Although financial incentives and much government encouragement are offered to the miners to open up the Galilee Basin, a number of global economic factors are inhibiting further resource development at present.

Bimblebox Art in W.A.

Many thanks to the artists who have put so much of their own time into the [travelling art exhibition of Bimblebox](#), now showing at the [Bunbury Regional Gallery, W.A.](#) until 23 November 2014.

The exhibition started from an [artist camp at Bimblebox](#) 3 years ago.

If you are interested in participating in future artist camps at Bimblebox Nature Refuge, please contact Jill Sampson at bimbleboxartproject@javitas.com.au.

Many thanks for your attention,

The Bimblebox Team

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