



for QUEENSLANDERS

Queensland
Labor

anna4qlders.com.au

22 March 2012

Dear GetUp member,

Thank you for your email about mining in nature refuges, including the Bimblebox Nature Refuge.

Like you, Labor is concerned about the environmental impacts of mining projects. That's why Labor has already:

- Introduced tough regulations to ensure the highest environmental standards are met,
- Begun phasing out mining on North Stradbroke Island to create a major new National Park, and
- Imposed limits on mining through our Wild Rivers policy.

While we have made significant progress, there is also more to be done.

During this election campaign, we have announced our commitment to review the nature refuge system with the aim of introducing new protections from mining for nature refuges with high conservation values.

The Bligh Government is committed to ensuring the protection of nature refuges with high conservation values. I am advised the Commonwealth has assessed Bimblebox as having environmental values worthy of conservation as habitat.

Given this assessment, I can confirm that Labor's policy would have the effect of ruling out mining in areas like the Bimblebox nature refuge.

In contrast, the LNP in Queensland have shown they will always put the environment last.

The LNP have said they will continue to allow sand mining on North Stradbroke Island indefinitely, and they will tear up Labor's Wild Rivers laws that stop damaging mining in areas around Queensland's pristine river systems. This will open the door to strip mining in the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve. **And when it comes to Bimblebox, the chairman of the company who wants to mine it is Clive Palmer – the LNP's largest donor.**

Yours sincerely,

**ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**