



**The Bimblebox
Alliance Inc.**

Protect the bush
alliance



**BIMBLEBOX NATURE REFUGE
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA**

Theme B.

Solutions in developing governance
of the landscape: addressing key
challenges

“Our family, 10 years ago put every available last dollar into buying the place to save it from bulldozers. Then in securing it as a Nature Refuge, we were charged by both federal and state governments with the responsibility to restore and preserve.

That’s our brief and we intend to keep it and if government and industry cannot recognise its value, then we who do, must show them this place means as much to us as coal does to them.”

Ian Hoch, Bimblebox, 2010

Bimblebox is not the only refuge under siege, a third of our Nature Refuges are threatened by coal

Nature Refuges with coal mining leases and coal mining development leases

Bullen Bullen Nature Refuge ~ Holroyd NR ~ Kemmis Creek NR ~ Mount Murchison NR ~ Newlands NR ~ Wallaby Lane NR

Nature Refuges with exploration permits for coal

Agjinbilly NR ~ Alyxia NR ~ Arborlee NR ~ Avocet NR ~ Ballantyne NR ~ Ballow View NR ~ Bally’s Plus five NR ~ Bartopia NR ~ Bellbird NR ~ Bellview NR ~ Bimblebox NR ~ Blackjack Mountain NR ~ Boggomoss NR ~ Bowman NR ~ Brovinia NR ~ Bunderra NR ~ Burwood NR ~ Bygana NR ~ Calingunee NR ~ Carabeen NR ~ Carnarvon station NR ~ Caroa Island Paddock NR ~ Castlevale NR ~ Chinchilla Rifle Range NR ~ Clarke Hills NR ~ Coolibah NR ~ Corrick Plains NR ~ Creek Retreat NR ~ Dangerbridge NR ~ Develin NR ~ Doongmabulla Mound Springs NR ~ Dryander Creek NR ~ Eaglefield Creek NR ~ Ellangowan NR ~ Fair Hills NR ~ Flagstone NR ~ Gilmore NR ~ Glen-Ewin NR ~ Goonderoo NR ~ Greene Dale NR ~ Hells gate NR ~ Hermitage NR ~ Hughes NR ~ Kalpowar NR ~ Kemmis Creek NR ~ Kenmare NR ~ Lake Dartmouth NR ~ Lex Creek NR ~ Mandala NR ~ Mimosa Park NR ~ Moon View NR ~ Moorabinda NR ~ Mount Armour NR ~ Mount Jukes NR ~ Mount Kanigan NR ~ Mount Monty Rainforest NR ~ Mount Murchison NR ~ Mount Pleasant NR ~ Mount Rose NR ~ Myall Park NR ~ Nara Springs NR ~ Newlands NR ~ Nibbereena Creek NR ~ Norman NR ~ North Head NR ~ Norwich Park NR ~ Nyalar Miru ganah NR ~ Old Hiddenvale NR ~ Orkadilla NR ~ Padaminka NR ~ Penda Scrub NR ~ Phiara Downs NR ~ Puntdaloo NR ~ Rainbow Mountain NR ~ Rainbow NR ~ Rainmore NR ~ Ramaz NR ~ Reliance Creek NR ~ Resolute NR ~ Rhondan Valley NR ~ Rivercal NR ~ Serpentine NR ~ Shankeen NR ~ South Endeavour NR ~ Southernwood NR ~ Spicers Peak NR ~ Stuart creek NR ~ The Point NR ~ Theresa Hut NR ~ Thompsons Bush NR ~ Tokatakiya NR ~ Topton NR ~ W.R. and D.M. J Carter NR ~ Wallaby Lane NR ~ Walluma NR ~ Whipbird NR ~ Willawa NR ~ Wondekai NR ~ Woodine NR ~ Yarra NR



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History of Bimblebox

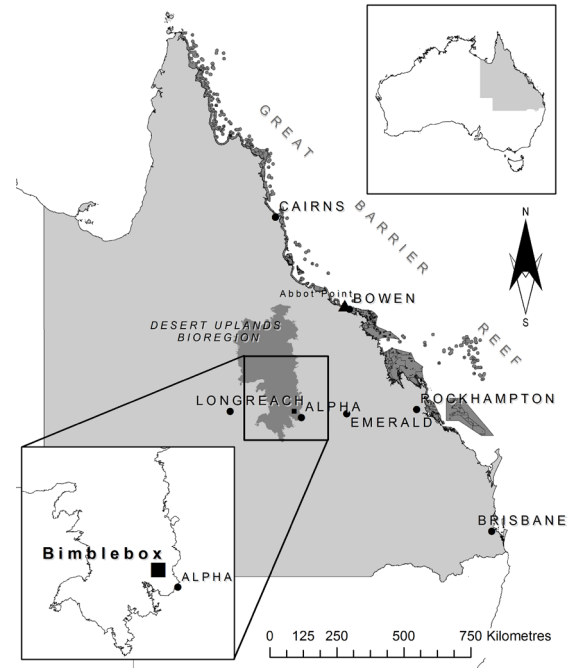
In 2000 the property was bought to save it from clearing with combined money of concerned families, plus \$300,000 of federal National Reserve System funding.

In 2003 the Bimblebox Nature Refuge Agreement was signed between the land owners and the state government, to 'permanently protect' the property's conservation values.

Nature Refuges are classified as IUCN (Protected Areas Category VI) and counted towards Australia's protected area targets.

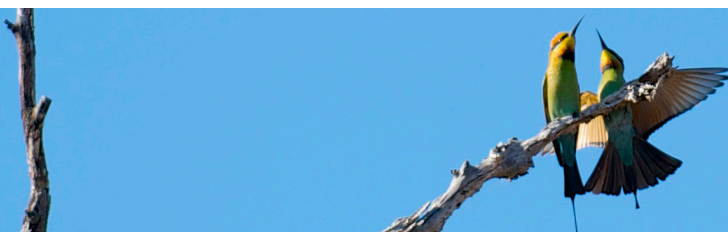
Research Projects

The Bimblebox Nature Refuge is a test case for sustainable grazing and the site of many on-going research projects relevant to the entire bioregion, which are run with the assistance of a few (due to the remote location) volunteers.



Congratulations once again, to the landowners who have a nature refuge—because of you these places are now safeguarded for future generations.

Lindy Nelson-Carr MP
Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism





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Why Protect Bimblebox?

95% of original
vegetation still intact
cutting edge research
&
sustainable land management

18 species of conservation
Significance for the Desert
Uplands bioregion

154 species of birds
... and still counting

Only 2.3% of the whole Desert Uplands bioregion is protected in conservation estates, and it is underrepresented in the National Reserve System.

The Desert Uplands bioregion contains nationally endangered plants, birds, reptiles, mammals and fish.





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Government Approvals

- On Friday 9th August 2013, the Queensland Coordinator General approved the proposed mine that will destroy Bimblebox Nature Refuge.
- On Friday 20th December 2013, Greg Hunt, the Federal Minister for the Environment, announced his approval for Clive Palmer’s proposed Galilee Coal Project (aka China First).

Impacts to Bimblebox and areas around rail and port to be “offset”

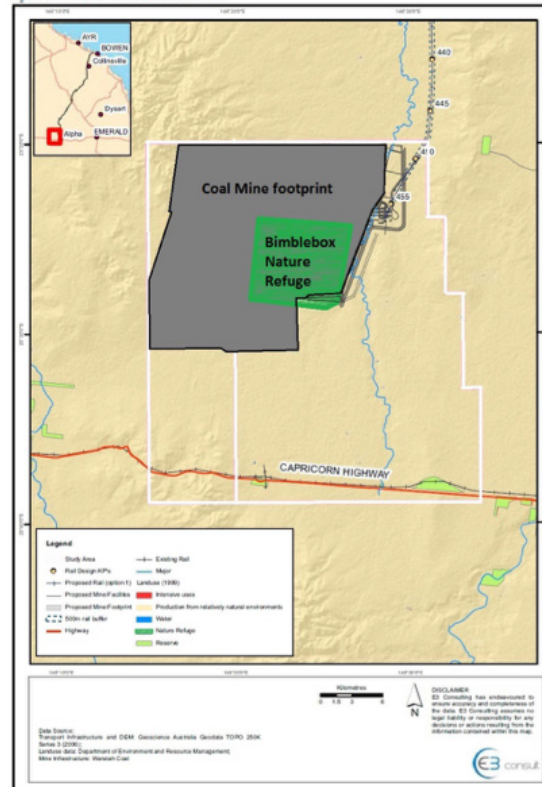
Offset area to be legally ‘secured’ by a Nature Refuge Agreement...

- There is nothing to stop this offset area being cleared in the future. For example, Newlands Nature Refuge was established to offset Newlands coal mine (Xstrata), but a proposed extension to the mine will now destroy the Nature Refuge.

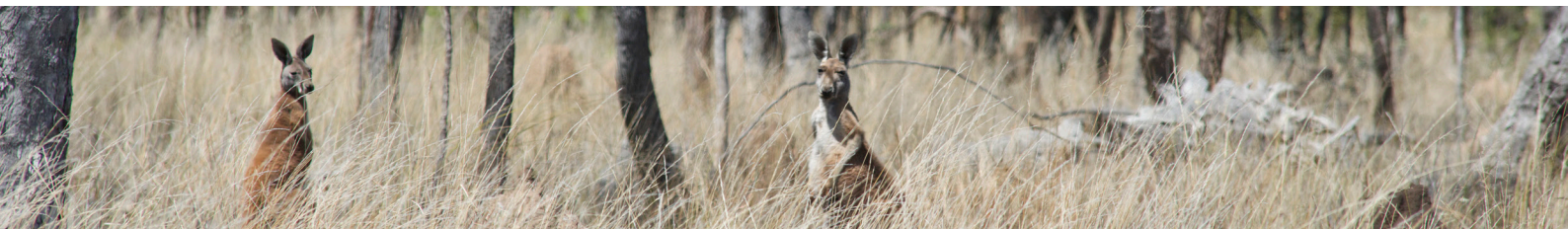
No evidence that appropriate offset areas are available to ‘substitute’ Bimblebox.

- Management is needed to obtain an ‘ecological equivalence’ of the offset area.
- It took over 10 years of dedicated management to restore undergrowth to Bimblebox.

Figure 8. Mine Site – Land Use Conservation



Bowen Basin Mine, north-east of Bimblebox Nature Refuge





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Because of recent changes to Queensland legislation, landholders, conservation groups and the general public have minimal or no say in proposed mining projects.

Our options are few:

- Campaign to change state and federal covenant legislation to exclude mining and other inappropriate activities from Nature Refuges (unlikely under current governments).
- Conduct specific national and international activist and media campaigns to raise awareness of the massive environmental destruction and fuelling of global warming being facilitated by the deliberate erosion of our democratic rights.
- Undertake peaceful civil disobedience to stop locally and globally damaging projects – our right as members of a democratic society.

