



Paola Cassoni
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Dear Ms Cassoni

Thank you for your correspondence seeking the views of political parties on the mining of nature refuges.

I can assure you that the Queensland Greens firm view is that mining in nature refuges and protected areas should be prohibited. The Queensland Greens will seek to amend the *Nature Conservation Act* to permanently exclude mining activities in, and from impacting upon, all protected areas and those with high conservation values at state, regional and local levels.

We do not support the ineffective approach suggested by other parties of trying to use 'offsets' to provide a supposed balance to the destruction of nature refuges by mining. This does not and cannot work in replacing the lost habitat or the damage to biodiversity.

The protection, conservation and restoration of biodiversity is essential for the wellbeing of all life on Earth. The continuing decline of Queensland's biodiversity poses an unacceptable threat to human and ecosystem health and is reducing our capacity to cope with major ecological threats such as climate change.

The Queensland Greens support calls for the revocation of all exploration permits and mining operations impacting on declared protected areas and remnant vegetation. We will continue to campaign to prevent and prohibit the development of any new coal mines or the expansion of existing coal mines anywhere in Queensland.

Please get in touch if you would like further details on the Greens' position and record on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Penny Allman-Payne
Convenor, Queensland Greens