

Saturday 24 January 2015

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Thank you for your correspondence regarding matters of concern for the Bimblebox Nature Refuge in the context of the 2015 State Election.

Queensland is a great place to live and work and does have a bright future, but with more uncertainty facing the rest of Australia and the world, we need to make sure Queensland stays on track to secure that bright future.

Through strong economic management, we are seeing real progress in health and education, more jobs in a stronger economy, better roads and less crime. And now that we've set the right financial foundations, we're able to truly afford the better schools and hospitals, improved roads and more police our growing state needs.

A re-elected Newman LNP Government will keep working hard to deliver our long term economic plan. We'll keep growing a four pillar economy focusing on agriculture, construction, resources and tourism to deliver more jobs and better services.

The LNP is committed to ensuring that Queensland is the safest place to live, work, visit and raise a family.

The *Nature Refuges Program* is a key component of the Newman LNP Government's approach to conservation. We have been investing heavily in adding to and enhancing both general nature refuges and koala nature refuges over the past term.

The Newman LNP Government has supported landholders and reinvigorated these programs, adding 41 new nature refuges covering over 1 million hectares. This brings the combined total to nearly 4 million hectares of high value conservation land now protected. We have provided \$7.4 million to the *Nature Assist* program and \$6 million to the *Koala Nature Refuge* program through contestable grants to assist landholders achieve scientifically robust and cost-effective landscape conservation.

Although *Nature Refuges* do provide conservation protection, they have never prohibited mining. However, before any mining projects are approved in Queensland they must first demonstrate how they can avoid, mitigate or offset matters of environmental significance.

While there remain cases of conflict between different types of land uses, such as conservation, agricultural production and the extraction of natural resources, it is also true that the incidence of actual mining development of nature refuges has to date been very low across Queensland. The Newman LNP Government remains strongly committed to the successful delivery of landscape conservation through a strategic and coordinated approach to nature refuges.

The *Environmental Impact Statement* assessment process is conducted rigorously within the independent Coordinator General's office or within the Department of Environment and Heritage by independent public servants, and not by political decision-makers.

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The Newman LNP Government has given the people of Queensland certainty around projects and the potential jobs that arise should those projects meet the high environmental standards that we demand.

What we don't want is to have valuable, job-creating projects tied up in bureaucratic red tape. The Newman LNP Government is committed to protecting the environment as well as continuing to grow a four pillar economy and create jobs. We believe we have got the balance right. We have shown in the last three years that you can remove green tape without impacting the environment.

While a lot has been achieved, the job is not yet done.

We will be making new policy announcements to enhance the LNP's strong plan for Queensland over the remaining days of the election campaign, and I encourage you to continue to monitor the work that we are doing to deliver dividends for Queenslanders that can only come from better economic management and responsible government.

If Queensland goes off track now, the real progress we are starting to see will be at risk. We cannot afford the political chaos that would occur if Labor flopped over the line with the help of wasted votes on minor parties and independents. That will only make Queensland weaker.

Vote LNP to keep on course for a brighter future and a stronger Queensland.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me and I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brad Henderson'.

Brad Henderson  
State Director