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## **Rob Katter MP** Member for Mount Isa



21 January 2015

Ms Paola Cassoni  
bimblebox@gmail.com  
Bimblebox Nature Refuge  
Alpha QLD, 4724

**RE: Mining in protected areas.**

Dear Ms Cassoni,

Thank you for taking the time to write to my office in relation to nature refuges, in particular your Bimblebox Nature Refuge.

I think it is important in outlining KAP's stance on this issue to draw your attention to the KAP, Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill 2013.

The Bill was put to parliament with the intention to protect prime agricultural land from Coal Seam Gas exploration ensuring sustainability of the agricultural industry and food security into the future. These are important ideals that represent what KAP stand for.

I have also been vocal about making better use of the Port of Karumba as a direct shipping access route to Asia as an alternative to the Great Barrier Reef in order to better protect such an important natural ecosystem.

As a member of the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee I was required to take part in the analysis and feasibility of the State Development Areas Amendment Regulation for the addition of a State Development Area to cover the corridor selected for the Galilee Basin Coal Mine development train line to Abbott Point.

In the Committee report, I entered a Dissenting Report stating my disagreement with the Committee's finding in favour of the Amendment. In the report I state:



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"I believe that the implementation of this regulation is in direct contravention of the overall purpose of a State Development Area's objectives... It would be without due consideration of existing industry which as a direct result suffer reduced economic return.

In terms of protecting environmental values, no amount of EIS by proponents in relation to the Galilee Basin SDA can adequately determine the overall effects that will be incurred by the implementation of the Regulation."

As a Member of Parliament my job is first to my constituents and the state of Queensland. I think it is important to understand that with each individual case, I make an assessment of what I believe is best for the people, community and industries affected and weigh that against the potential implications in each scenario.

I appreciate the importance of protecting Australia's unique flora and fauna, and admire and respect people who take on such responsibility. I am happy to communicate with and listen to the concerns of any individual or organisation on this topic and take those concerns into consideration when making decisions on these issues.

I hope that I have satisfactorily answered your questions and would be willing to discuss with you further if required.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Rob Katter".

**Rob Katter**  
Member for Mount Isa