



Dear friends and supporters,

Here at Bimblebox Nature Refuge (NR) we've been just holding on waiting for some good news following the disastrous **federal approval of the Galilee Coal Project** late last year. (The Galilee Coal Project, formerly known as China First, is the coal project that would dig up Bimblebox.)

We have had people from all over Australia contact us, concerned about the impact of mining on Bimblebox, and about the cumulative impacts of all the mines proposed for the Galilee Basin (there are at least 11 proposed mines, **most of them much bigger than anything we've seen before in Australia – “megamines”!**)

The mining threat to Bimblebox (both due to Clive Palmer's Galilee Coal project and also due to neighboring mines) remains but has been held at bay for now by lack of finance. (To see how you can be a part of limiting the \$ available to new coal projects in Australia, check out [Market Forces](#)).

Alpha Coal

One recent event for us, and for the Galilee as a whole, was the delivery of the Hon Justice Paul Smith's judgment on the proposed Alpha Coal Project, which is an open cut coal mine that would neighbor the mine proposed over Bimblebox.

The Coast&Country Association Qld, together with Ms. K. Kelly (from ACT), and a number of landholders of the Galilee including Paola, took on mining giant Hancock/GVK in the Queensland Land Court last year and were awarded an unusual decision by the judge. In April 2014, the judge found that Hancock's new Alpha Coal mine should *not* go ahead, or, if it did, it would have to meet substantial new conditions around regulating and mitigating groundwater impacts.

Read about the decision [here](#).

Alpha Coal mine could have disastrous impacts here in the Galilee by potentially depleting not only our stock bores but also the availability of the groundwater for Bimblebox's groundwater dependent ecosystems.

Help keep the EDO alive

The [Environmental Defender's Office](#) has been very helpful to our cause since 2009 and

their free legal advice will be greatly missed. They are very effective, that's why both State and Federal governments have withdrawn all funds months ago. It's up to us now to keep EDO services going.

They need to raise \$120,000 to keep operating beyond July. **You can [donate to the EDO here](#).**

The Alpha case showed that there is legislation (for now anyway) that safeguard our environment but are largely ignored by Mining Corporations and appeasing governments. For private citizens and landowners to take on the fight in the courts, there is the need for public back up.

Read about Garry Reed's [fight to save his farm](#) from mining in Collinsville.

Our sincere thanks to all those people that donated to the Alpha case. Bimblebox can stand on its own two feet financially but when the courts could be the only possible solution to protect the NR, we hope we can humbly ask you for that extra financial help to pay for expert witnesses and legal representation.

Senate Offsets Inquiry

Current Federal and Queensland Environmental Offset Policies are effectively what allows Bimblebox to be destroyed for coal and the submission from Bimblebox to the Senate Committee seeks to highlight offsetting as a precedent for the destruction of protected areas, making an absolute mockery of private conservation agreements, which will be overturned and NRs will be "offset" with new ones elsewhere. Our submission also points out that there is insufficient resourcing to ensure offsets are assessed accurately or managed as originally agreed.

<http://www.anao.gov.au/Publications/Audit-Reports/2013-2014/Managing-Compliance-with-EPBC-Act-1999-Conditions-of-Approval/Audit-summary>

Paola was invited to answer questions at the enquiry and she gave evidence in Brisbane via teleconference. You can access all the submissions [here](#). The team submission is number 87. Sonya's (long term volunteer) submission is number 67.

Any favourable recommendation from this enquiry will come too late for Bimblebox, but it may help the fate of other NR. Our research shows that at the moment there are another 110 Nature Refuges threatened by coal exploration with 6 already 'enjoying' coal mining leases. A case in point of the futility of offsetting NRs is the case of the Newlands NR. It was a condition for the [approval of the Newlands Coal mine](#) to establish the NR. Recently the mine has requested a permit to start extracting coal from the NR. The mine extension has been granted and the offset will need to be re-offsetted!

OTHER NEWS

Bimblebox on show in Brisbane

Many thanks to everyone involved in the **great art exhibition *Bimblebox: art-science-***

nature at Redland Art Gallery, Cleveland Brisbane.

We had a full house! The art work will be on display til Sunday 29th June. It will then travel to other parts of the country.

Check out the [website](#) for more information and to see photos of the art and opening night

Galilee Mines petition

Last November Bimblebox supported [the petition](#) launched by the **Galilee Basin Alliance** asking Environment Minister Greg Hunt to stop approving mines in the Galilee until the water security of other water users were assured.

With 1,719 signatures, as far as we know, Mr. Hunt preferred only to communicate to the signatories via this [interview](#). Since then, China First mine was approved and the approval of Adani's mine is imminent, with 'conditions' of course.

Species conservation forum

Protect The Bush Alliance will hold a forum in Brisbane at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens on Thursday 26 June titled 'Do species surveys make a difference in conservation?' and there will also be a talk about the recent flora and fauna surveys conducted at Bimblebox NR by Sheena Gillman. [Click here](#) for more info and to RSVP contact survey@ptba.org.au or 07 3367 987807 3367 9878.

Road trip visits Bimblebox

There's been plenty happening on the ground here too, between the annual eruption of weeds (and weeding) following the summer rain, and an influx of visitors from down the East coast and as far away as Perth.

On the **Galilee Bus Trip** we had 40 concerned citizens here for 2 nights in April - They had come up to us in a bus that was touring through the Galilee Basin to learn more about landholders' experiences of coal and gas expansion. Check out the [photos](#)!

More info:

[Jude Garlick's Blog entry on the trip](#)

[Seven part blog series from the Overthinker](#)

In the [June 2014 edition of Warbler](#) p 4,5,6 'Some Green Notes' by Sheena **Gillman**

Thank you all

Kind regards

The Bimblebox Team

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