

NATURE REFUGE PETITION

If you are concerned by the lack of protection of your Nature Refuge when faced by mineral interests, please consider signing the open letter below, to Premier Anna Bligh. Feel free to call Paola (Bimblebox NR) on 07 4985 3474, or go to www.bimblebox.org for more information. Paola is collecting these letters to make a joint submission to the State Government, so please send this signed petition to; C/O Bimblebox Nature Refuge, Alpha Old 4724, or scan and email to bimblebox@gmail.com.

Dear Premier Bligh,

We, the undersigned, are Queensland Nature Refuge landholders. We entered conservation agreements (category VI IUCN classification) with the Queensland state government for the purpose of securing high conservation value biodiversity on our properties and contributing to the national network of protected areas. With only a small proportion of Queensland land area held in conservation reserves, we believe that it is necessary to protect water catchments, carbon stores, and what remains of the state's biodiversity on private lands. We are deeply dismayed that there is very little we can do to protect our nature refuges when faced with mineral exploration and exploitation.

We consider it a serious contradictory flaw in state legislation that areas deemed worthy of perpetual conservation agreements between government and landholders, can be quashed by short-term mining ventures. As landholders we are encouraged to commit to securing the high conservation values on our properties, but there is no in-kind commitment from your government to ensure its perpetual protection. Currently there are around 100 Queensland Nature Refuges subject to mineral exploration permits. It is shamefully inadequate for the environmental values on our properties only to be '*addressed on a case by case basis*' when confronted by mineral interests.

With the smallest percentage of protected areas of any other Australian state or Territory, we urge your government to take seriously the task of maintaining and enhancing Nature Refuges in Queensland. It is unacceptable that destructive mining developments can have right of way over these special places. Many of us have invested considerable time, energy and resources in preserving these areas and we do not want to see them destroyed.

Please take this issue seriously.

Yours sincerely,

Signature:

Name:

Nature Refuge:

Address:

Email:

Date: