

MEDIA RELEASE – 21 December 2013

Federal Environment Minister shows his ignorance

Federal Environment Minister, Greg Hunt, has demonstrated woeful ignorance of the lack of protection provided by Nature Refuges in Queensland.

Minister Hunt's approval of the Waratah Coal Mine in the Galilee Basin will lead to the total destruction of the 8000 hectare Bimblebox Nature Refuge.

“His solution to the destruction of this intact bushland is to create a 16,000 hectare “Offset” which is to be “protected” by - guess what? – another Nature Refuge.” said Mr Herbert, spokesman for Capricorn Conservation Council (CCC)

“Nature Refuges have been created in Queensland to give permanent protection to natural areas on private land. However they provide absolutely NO protection against mining.”

“If Bimblebox Nature Refuge can be mined then the same fate awaits any offset supposedly protected by a Nature Refuge.”

“CCC has pointed out this anomalous situation many times to both state and federal authorities during the Environmental Impact Statement process. We despair of a situation which allows such ignorance to prevail.”

ENDS
