



Contents

Bimblebox Nature Refuge or Coal Mine?	Capricorn Integrated Resort
Taxing Sunlight	Feed children plastic?
Anti Uranium Campaign	Frog Society
Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment	EDO Funding Cut
Marine Parks at Risk	Skeptical Science

Bimblebox Nature Refuge or Open Cut Coal Mine?



As the final 2013 **Topic of Capricorn** goes to print the fate of Bimblebox Nature Refuge remains unknown. Will Minister Hunt honour the Federal and State government promises to protect 'in perpetuity' the last intact large remnant of Desert Upland community or condemn the plants and animals to death and dislocation from Waratah's Galilee Coal mine? <http://www.ruralweekly.com.au/news/d-day-for-galilee-coal-project/2119110/>

Capricorn Integrated Resort

Iwasaki Sangyo are proposing a 1500-hectare integrated resort community including a 300-room, five-star resort, golf course, caravan and recreational vehicle park, Wagyu cattle farm, residential community of 8000 dwellings and village centre, conservation precinct, airstrip and refurbishment of the existing 331-room Mercure Capricorn Resort. The Coordinator-General draft EIS terms of reference (TOR) is available for comment until at 5pm on Monday 27 January 2014. CCC has invited the project proponents to on-going community consultation – our next Yeppoon Forum is being planned for mid February. For more information on CCC environmental concerns go to: [Iwasaki expansion proposed](http://www.cccqld.org.au/newsletters/TOC_2013g_Oct.pdf) ToC Oct 2013: http://www.cccqld.org.au/newsletters/TOC_2013g_Oct.pdf

Taxing Sunlight

Solar Citizens has launched a petition to push back against a new proposal floated by the Australian Energy Market Commission to hit every solar home with a fee or tariff just to be connected to the grid (outrageous!). Please sign the petition and share on social media: <http://www.solarcitizens.org.au/suntax>. With over 26,000 so far we're aiming for many more to state and federal energy ministers. Nick Taylor | Solar Citizens Campaigner | www.solarcitizens.org.au

Would you feed plastic to your children?

Marine debris is found on every remote beach along Australia's coastline, but it's concentrated near major population centres. The main items of rubbish washing ashore are plastic bags and cigarette butts. Floating plastic bags look just like jellyfish – turtles' favourite food. As they break apart, the pieces of plastic bags join other floating plastic, creating a soup of plastic remnants suspended in seawater. On Heron Island, one fifth of wedge-tailed shearwater chicks have been fed plastic remnants by parent birds. Support the campaign to free Queensland from single use plastic bags: <http://qldconservation.org.au/qlds-had-a-gutful/>

Queensland Anti Uranium Campaign Coordinator

In October 2012, Premier Campbell Newman announced the end of a 23 year ban on uranium mining in Queensland. This decision was made without assessment or consultation and is in direct conflict with a clear LNP community commitment. The LNP is now seeking to fast-track uranium mining with little consideration of the environmental, health and safety impacts or economic viability of uranium mining. A community coalition of organisations has appointed a campaign coordinator to work with us to prevent uranium mining in Queensland. This is an important role at an important time and we look forward to hearing from you and working together to keep the door firmly shut to uranium mining in Queensland. **Please support this campaign** with a small donation **\$5, \$10, \$20** or more if you are able to:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$5	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	Amount
Payment method	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque or M/O		<input type="checkbox"/> EFT - Direct bank transfer
CCC bank a/c for EFT: BSB: 014 690; A/c Nr: 491 268 991; Reference: YOUR NAME/URANIUM				

Queensland Frog Society Rockhampton and CQ Group

Focus on a frog: Superb collared frog *Litoria brevipes* (previously *Cyclorana brevipes*)

Photo by David Flack - Roma area



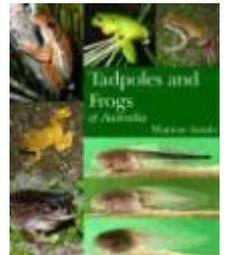
At our October meeting, local herpetologist and QFS member David Flack fascinated us with his stories and photos of frogs. It survives the extended dry periods by forming a cocoon of skin around its body to reduce moisture loss, remaining underground until the rains come. This dormant phase called aestivation is a lot like hibernation. Once the rains begin, these Superb collared frogs become active once again, males calling with a long growl and females laying their eggs in temporary pools. Although they are not an endangered species, the existence of Superb

collared frogs is threatened more and more by habitat loss due to increased farming and the use of agrochemicals.

Roadside reserves often become really important breeding grounds in areas where farming has taken over their original habitat. For more information, see <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41068/0> Next QFS event: **Heritage**

Village Markets on 26 January 2014. [Exciting new reference book by Marion Anstis](#) author of "Tadpoles of South-Eastern Australia" has now produced the ultimate Australian frog reference book, "Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia", incorporating all species of adult frogs and illustrated descriptions of eggs, tadpoles and metamorphs of most species. This wonderful resource may be ordered at:

<http://www.angusrobertson.com.au/book/tadpoles-and-frogs-of-australia/41967742>. Until next time, happy frogspotting, **Bethlea Bell**, Rockhampton & CQ Voluntary Coordinator, Queensland Frog Society 4933 1591 / 0428 394 525 www.qldfrogs.asn.au john_bethlea@bigpond.com



Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment

Looks at the Reef's values and how these values are being protected now and into the future, while enabling the sustainable development of the coastal zone. The comprehensive strategic assessment has been developed in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. GBR Zone and Coastal Zone (Qld) reports are available at: <http://www.reefhaveyoursay.com.au/draft-reports>

A survey form can be accessed at: <http://www.reefhaveyoursay.com.au/survey>

Written submissions can be made via: feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au or by post:

Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment, Public Consultation Manager, GPO Box 668 Brisbane, QLD 4001

Consultation closes on Friday 31 January 2014.

Federal Funding Cut - help EDO stay strong

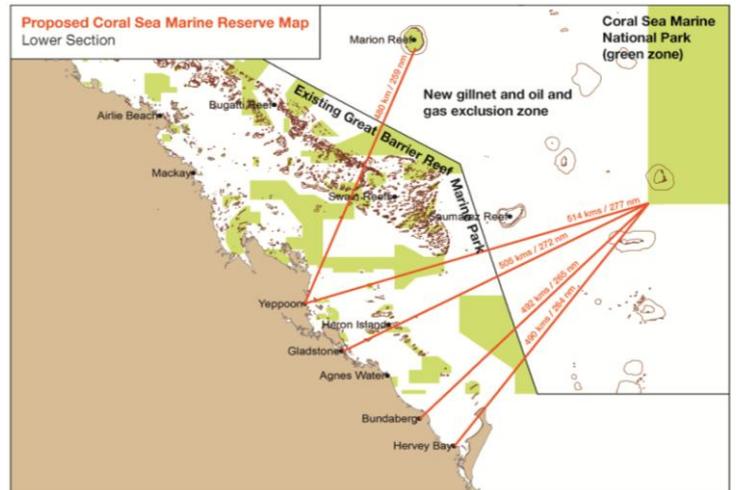
Environment Defenders Office (Qld) was advised by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's department that funding for all Environment Defenders Offices around the country was to be **terminated immediately**. This demonstrates the lack of respect held by the Federal Government for the many Australian communities using the law to stand up for the places they love. The withdrawal of funding guts our ability to help landholders, individuals and community groups understand and act on their legal rights to protect the natural environment and their communities. But we will strive to keep providing you with free services in the interests of access to justice. **If you have ever received our assistance or value the essential services we provide, now is the time, we need your support.** Two things you can do to help us today: Donations can be made to: <http://www.givenow.com.au/edo>. Please **SPREAD THE WORD** through Facebook, Twitter and your local networks. With thanks, **Jo Bragg** Principal Solicitor EDO Qld



Abbott to review Marine Parks protection

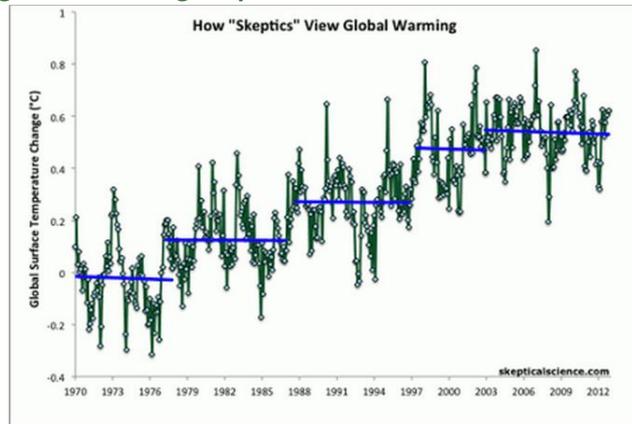
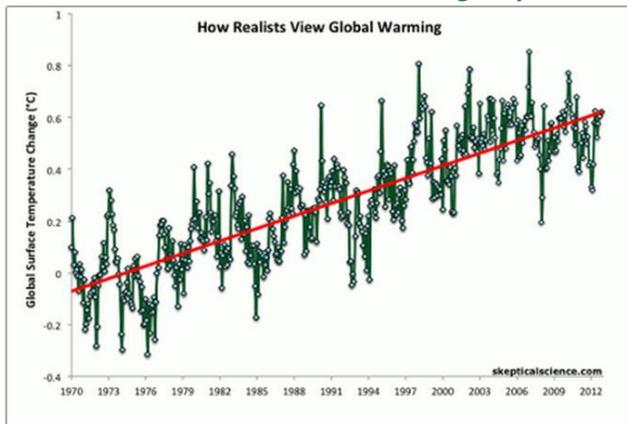
It's been a big year for the seas around us. Together, we fought off coal ports in fragile estuaries, including a massive coal port in the Fitzroy Delta. We also helped secure a \$40 million dollar commitment from the Coalition

Government to establish a 'Reef Trust' to fund new **Commonwealth marine parks have been suspended**, and a green light has been given to the world's largest coal port on the shores of the Great Barrier Reef. Environment Minister Greg Hunt announced the Abbott Government will "redraft" the management plans for our Commonwealth marine reserves (including the Coral Sea) that we fought so hard for – note distance from **Yeppoon!** He's ignoring best science, community support, consultation and over a decade of bi-partisan support for marine parks. Tell Environment Minister Greg Hunt to honour this great legacy for our seas. Never have so many been so vocal in defence of our seas. Together, we will turn the tide: <https://secure.marineconservation.org.au/donate.php>



Skeptical Science

Getting sceptical about global warming skepticism



Same data different spin. **Red line** shows a four decade trend in surface temperature rise; **Blue lines** show series of flat or decreasing trends, but from higher temperature points! Which line do you think the Abbott & Newman Governments and coal companies prefer? For more information: <http://www.skepticalscience.com/graphics.php>

