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## Waratah Coal still plans to destroy [Bimblebox Nature Refuge](#)

The 8,000 ha Bimblebox property was recognised 12 years ago by both the Federal and State governments as the last example of uncleared woodland in the Desert Uplands Bio-region. The Federal Government contributed over \$300,000 towards the purchase of the property on the condition that it was preserved **in perpetuity**. The State government declared the Bimblebox Nature Refuge to protect this intact natural ecosystem. Despite this Waratah Coal still intends to mine Bimblebox Nature Refuge. The [Qld Coordinator General](#) has opened the [Waratah Galilee Coal](#) supplementary EIS for public comment until **6th May**. It's now time for the Australian public to let our governments know that we value intact biodiversity over an ever-expanding coal industry!

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Write to your local papers, [State](#) & [Federal](#) MPs & Senators

[Tony Burke](#) (Federal Environment Minister)

[Jeff Seeney](#) (Qld Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning)

[Andrew Cripps](#) (Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines)

[Andrew Powell](#) (Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection)

[Premier Campbell Newman](#)

[Prime Minister Julia Gillard](#)

## Fitzroy delta is 'Sistine Chapel' of estuaries

International marine scientist Prof. Callum Roberts recently visited CQ and travelled from Yeppoon to Gladstone harbour via the Fitzroy Delta and The Narrows. He spoke about the importance of the Reef and the destruction being caused to it by rapid over-development referring to the Delta as 'the [Cistine Chapel](#)' of the world's estuaries. Help protect Keppel Bay: Go to [www.protectkeppelbay.org](http://www.protectkeppelbay.org). (Donations encouraged plus *Save the Snubbie* T-shirts etc)

## Queensland Ecotourism plan (draft) 2013-2020 released

The draft 2013 – 2020 [Queensland Ecotourism Plan](#) (PDF, 1.9M) has been released for comment. The Queensland Government states its aim is to reduce red tape for commercial ventures setting up in National Parks. CCC is concerned the proposal ignores the cardinal principal for declaring National Parks, which is to provide **permanent preservation of an area's natural condition and the protection of cultural resources and values**. Have your say to prevent our National Parks being threatened by overuse and a legacy of failed projects. Comments: [ecotourismplan@npsr.qld.gov.au](mailto:ecotourismplan@npsr.qld.gov.au) close **31 May 2013**. Please share on social media, write to the paper and to you MPs.

**National Parks at Risk:** The community overwhelmingly expressed opposition to the proposal to allow private tourism facilities into Queensland National Parks. 85% of submissions opposed private tourism facilities in National Parks under the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 which could allow resorts on public land. The Bill's objectives conflict with the cardinal principal for creating National Parks: namely to provide permanent preservation of an area's natural condition. [links: [CCC submission](#) | [CCC Media](#) | [TMB story](#) | [View All Submissions](#) ]

## Queensland backsliding on the environmental

The defining characteristic of the Newman government's environmental policy seems to be a Great Leap Backwards: an old-fashioned determination not to let environmental concerns get in the way of expanding the mining industry in general and the coal industry in particular. It really is a *coal-ition* government. Article by Ian Lowe, Emeritus Professor, School of Science at Griffith University <http://theconversation.edu.au/queenslands-big-step-back-from-environmental-assessment-9238>

Here's just some of what has been lost:

- Protection for Flying Foxes
- Queensland Coastal Plan – decisions moved from Environment to Planning and
- Protected area Forest Reserves
- Nature Conservation Act opens up National Parks to commerce
- Water Act will remove riparian protection
- Vegetation Management Act weakened
- Land & Environment Court costs threatens your ability to object to developers' excesses
- Environmental Defenders Office funding cut
- Protected Plants laws

Our dominant political cultures will continue to strip away hard won environmental protections if we the public sit stunned or become complacent. (Topic of Capricorn will bring you updates on the raft of so called 'green tape reduction measures from both federal and State Governments)

## Healthy Harbour Survey

The Gladstone Region Environmental Advisory Network (GREAN) would like to capture the Community's Vision of a Healthy Gladstone Harbour. GREAN invites community members to complete a short survey in order to share their thoughts on what an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable Gladstone Harbour looks like. Click on this link to take the survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6TZW7RB> Your feedback will help to develop a vision for the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership Report Card.

## Reef Walk 2012

In 2011 June Norman (aged 72) walked 500k along the CSG pipeline route from Dalby to Gladstone to meet the UNESCO Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Mission. June's efforts impressed Dr Fanny Douvere

## Biodiversity Education in CQ

CCC gained the experience and talents of Marnie Augustyn and Andrew Dinwoodie who have been preparing information and educational resources on key species and ecological communities in CQ and present. The Biodiversity Workshops will be delivered over the coming months. For more information contact CCC.

## Sandy Point Discovery Day

Experience the beauty of our local coast Join with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments and Fitzroy Basin Association to celebrate Sandy Point. Bring your family and friends along to enjoy a sausage sizzle and share your memories of Sandy Point. There will be guest speakers, face painting and activities for the kids and more! Hear from representing:  
Directions: Head to the Mercure Resort Yeppoon and follow the signs to shuttle bus pick up point.  
What to bring: Hat, Sunscreen and closed in shoes. Date: **Sunday 21 April, 2013**; Time: 8:30am-12:30pm, Venue: Sandy Point, Yeppoon; Cost: Free RSVP: Janeen at FRCC on P; 4921 0573 or E; [admin@frcc.org.au](mailto:admin@frcc.org.au)

## Feral cat *Felis catus* facts – Bethlea Bell

Cats came to Australia when Europeans arrived soon escaped into now cover 99% of our mainland and many offshore islands.<sup>1</sup> Domestic cats are not feral but if they escape from captivity they often become strays, sourcing food from human habitations. Cats that become self-sufficient in the wild are known as ferals.<sup>2</sup> In the late 1800s cats were released in the wild to reduce rabbit, rat and mouse numbers.<sup>2</sup> **Feral cats kill around 75 million native animals a day in Australia, or 27 billion+ annually.**<sup>3</sup> and are directly linked to the decline or extinction of many native species and currently threaten 35 birds, 36 mammals, 7 reptiles and 3 amphibians.<sup>2</sup> Cats have only been successfully eradicated on islands or specially fenced areas.<sup>4</sup> The RSPCA receives 60,000 unwanted cats annually, over half of which are euthanased and the rest desexed then adopted.<sup>5</sup> How many more domestic cats are turning into strays or ferals?



### References:

1. Lapidge, K, Braysher, M & Sarre, S 2004-2012, *feral.org.au* [online], accessed 13 September 2012, <http://www.feral.org.au/>
2. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPC) 2011, *The feral cat (Felis catus)*, viewed 14 September 2012, <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/publications/cat-factsheet.html>
3. *Australian Wildlife Conservancy 2012b, Wildlife Matters: Special Edition – Historic initiatives for the Kimberley*, viewed 13 September 2012, [www.australianwildlife.org/images/file/2012%20Autumn.pdf](http://www.australianwildlife.org/images/file/2012%20Autumn.pdf)
4. Denny, EA & Dickman, CR 2010, *Review of cat ecology and management strategies in Australia*, Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, Canberra.
5. RSPCA 2012, *Desexing*, viewed 14 September 2012, <http://www.rspca.org.au/how-you-can-help/campaigns/desexing.html>

## Know our Frogs?

Did you know that there are [49 species of frogs](http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au/) native to Central Queensland, eight of which are extinct, endangered, vulnerable or near threatened? Frogs now need our help to survive, more so than ever before. To find out more about how to identify and protect local native frogs, and frog education and conservation projects in your area, hop onto the Queensland Frog Society website <http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au/>

## Interested in Native Plants? Society for Growing Australian Plants

is conducting a ONE DAY Trip to Blackdown Tableland - **Sunday 6th May 13.**  
Membership inquiries to P.O. Box 716 Rockhampton Qld. 4700  
Contact: Aileen Moorhead 4927 3327



**Plants of Capricornia** by Melzer and Plumb is still available at the Members discount price.

## CCC Membership 2013-2014

Membership reminders will be sent soon. You can help by early payment before our June AGM.

## Capricorn Yellow Chat *Epthianura crocea macgregori* ([Recovery Plan link](#))



CCC has after much pestering arranged to discuss with Arrow Energy the threat their Bowen Basin-Gladstone CSG pipeline will bring to the habitat of our most *critically endangered* local bird. The coastal plain between Gracemere and Gladstone is threatened by rail corridor expansion, Stanwell to Gladstone infrastructure corridor (7 pipelines), destined to extract Fitzroy River water for Gladstone industrial growth by the Sunwater - Gladstone Area Water Board [proposal](#) if the Rookwood Weir and Eden Bann Weir expansion proposal gets up.

*Michael McCabe*

**CAPRICORN CONSERVATION COUNCIL**

*a voice for the environment*

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