

# Submission on the environmental impact statement— Galilee Coal Project (Northern Export Facility)

Submissions close at 5pm on Monday 7 November 2011

<b>Name:</b>	Roseanne Peel	<b>Email:</b>	Roseanne.peel@newcastle.edu.au
<b>Organisation (if applicable):</b>	Public Health Association of Australia	<b>Telephone:</b>	0249138276
<b>Address:</b>	33 Popplewell Road, Fern Bay NSW 2295		

EIS Section	Describe the issue	Suggested solution
Chapter 5 – Cumulative Impact Assessment 5.4.3 Nature conservation 5.4.3.3 Mitigating measures	<p>Bimblebox Nature Refuge is a protected area under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, part 4, Division 1, 14(h). According to the Nature Conservation Act, Section 22: Management Principles of Nature Refuges – A nature refuge is to be managed to:</p> <p>a)conserve (ie. to protect and maintain nature while allowing for its ecologically sustainable use) the area’s significant cultural and natural resources. Open cut coal mining is not ecologically sustainable and the mitigating measures are clearly inadequate. The EIS openly states that there are a suite of significant fauna in the area, namely the black chinned honey eater, squatter pigeon and the black-throated finch just to name a few. There is no habitat for these birds to re-locate. Compensation by “offsets” is not feasible in this case.</p>	<p>Leave Bimblebox reserve in the hands of its owners and managers. Leave Bimblebox unmined and protected from effects of nearby mining. Promote Bimblebox as the sensible alternative “offset” for wildlife from other mining affected areas in the region.</p>

Please print, complete and sign this form before sending it to one of the following:

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The Coordinator-General  
C/- EIS project manager—Galilee Coal Project (Northern Export Facility)  
Significant Projects Coordination  
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation  
PO Box 15517  
City East QLD 4002 Australia

**Fax** +61 7 3225 8282

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	<p>b)provide for the controlled use of the area’s cultural and natural resources – Mining is not controlled use of this land’s natural resources, it is destruction of all of its resources including the extraction of minerals.</p> <p>c) provide for the interests of landholders to be taken into account – Clearly, this is not the case. The landowners and managers of Bimblebox have a commitment of conservation of the land. The landowners signed an agreement with the government to have this property listed as a Nature Refuge. The Federal National Reserve System program contributed \$300,000 for Bimblebox’s purchase and it is covered by a ‘perpetual’ conservation agreement with the State Government. The owners also have a host of important and leading research projects in progress. Clearly, the mining of this land is not in the landowners’ interests. Bimblebox, due to its location to other huge mines nearby, will be the sensible offset for fleeing wildlife from other areas being mined.</p>	
5.4	<p>There will be an increase in the burden of disease in the community due to coal mining, coal combustion emissions and coal processing caused by the contamination of air, water and soil with pollutants and known carcinogens.</p> <p>It is well known that coal mining process produces emissions of nitrous oxide, sulphur dioxide particulate matter (PM25 and PM10), and mercury. This causes serious health effects. According to Epstein et al(Full cost accounting for the life cycle of coal; ANNALS OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, 2011), the health effects in heavy coal mining areas include a dramatic increase in overall all cause mortality rates, lung cancer mortality rates, as well as increased mortality rates from heart, respiratory and kidney disease.</p> <p>As there are already a significant number of mines in the area to be mined, it appears that the cumulative effects of mining will already be devastating to the health of the community.</p>	Do not mine Bimblebox due to its close proximity to existing mining areas to reduce cumulative health effects from reduced air and ground water quality

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	<p>Table 15 in chapter 5 – Cumulative Impact Assessment clearly shows that the combined effects of the mines in the area have a high impact on groundwater contamination. This will have a significant direct affect on the safety of agriculture and food supplies.</p>	
<p>Volume 5 Appendices – Greenhouse Gas Assessment</p>	<p>Green House Gases are known to be a significant contributor to the overall warming of the planet. Severe weather patterns are already being frequently displayed world wide. These patterns have increased significantly despite taking the natural climate variability into consideration.</p> <p>This mine is planning to release 15,929,543 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>–e in the building phase of the mine and an ongoing 5,489,053 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>–e. This contributes further to the overall global warming and is unacceptable.</p> <p>Once the mine is operational Methane is emitted during the coal mining process. According to Epstein et al (2011), Methane is 25 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>, and <u>NOT</u> 21 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub> as per the report in the EIS.</p> <p>This estimate of CHG emissions is clearly underestimated and therefore, not satisfactory. The cumulative effects of the GHG in this area will have serious effects on the quality of life of the community and therefore their health.</p>	<p>Do not mine Bimblebox due to cumulative climate change health effects from GHG emissions.</p>

### Summary and Conclusion

PHAA strongly recommends that the government do not permit the Galilee Coal Project to proceed on account of:


- coal mining that reserve will adversely impact on global greenhouse gas emission
- mining will impact adversely on the health of nearby communities
- the ecosystem and habitat which is being conserved in the Bimblebox Reserve will be irretrievably damaged and lost

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- The state government should uphold their perpetual agreement to have this Nature Reserve conserved and disregard the proposition to mine this property. This property should not have been considered to be mined and therefore an EIS was not only inappropriate, but a waste of time and money for all concerned.

If there is insufficient space in the table above, please attach additional pages.

**Signature:** .....  ..... (A submission by more than one person must be signed by *each* submitter.)

08/11