

~~Sunday I was delighted to name Kat Stewart from the Brisbane SES group as the SES Member of the Year in Queensland. Volunteers like Kat are the lifeblood of SES. We must do as a parliament everything we can to support them not only in their roles out in the field but also in their training and professional development.~~

~~That is why I was pleased this year that our government was able to support SES volunteers by reinstating the State Disaster Rescue Challenge. Volunteers came from all over Queensland and they converged in Cairns for two days of intense and tough competition in which regional SES teams took part in a series of rescue scenarios based around a severe tropical cyclone. The State Disaster Rescue Challenge is held every two years and it is brilliant because they can certainly practice what they need in relation to lifesaving support to Queenslanders. Shamefully, the opposition members, the LNP, cancelled the event when they were in government. They cancelled it because they were too mean and too miserable to fund it. Our SES members want this to continue and it will continue under our government.~~

~~Mr SPEAKER: Question time has concluded.~~

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NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY (RENEWAL OF MINING LEASES) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Mr KNUTH (Dalrymple—KAP) (12.05 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability (Renewal of Mining Leases) Amendment Bill 2015.

Tabled paper: North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability (Renewal of Mining Leases) Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability (Renewal of Mining Leases) Amendment Bill 2015. The bill achieves a balanced approach to sustainably ending mining activities within a restricted mining path while supporting the Queensland government's vision for North Stradbroke Island. The bill provides a realistic time frame for the proposed economic transition strategy.

The former LNP government passed legislation to permit mining activities in the North Stradbroke Island region until 2035. The current Labor government planned to phase out mining activities by 2019. Basically this bill provides a sensible compromise. The primary objective of the bill is to sustainably end mining activities in the North Stradbroke Island region by the end of 2024. The bill also allows for rehabilitation of land in the region until the end of 2029.

This bill is a win for industry and workers as well as being a win for the community on North Stradbroke Island. It is a sensible compromise. For many years there has been public discussion and debate about the interconnected issues of mining, Aboriginal land rights and the environment on North Stradbroke Island. The bill is designed to respect the diverse points of view that exist to all. The bill is designed to provide a realistic time frame for an economic transition strategy to assist with diversifying the local economy by the Queensland government.

The KAP is concerned about employment in Queensland and is committed to protecting jobs. The AWU represents most of Sibelco's workers and is furious that 'no-one' in government is listening. Sibelco employs 110 workers at North Stradbroke Island, with about 20 per cent being Indigenous employees. Many of these employees are paying off mortgages and have family commitments like paying for their children's education. The company also directly employs a further 50 workers in Queensland and generates \$130 million each year into the local economy. AWU state secretary Ben Swan has said that mining workers are getting frustrated at successive Labor governments making decisions around North Stradbroke Island without consulting the mine company's workforce. He said, 'In the past five years we have gone from "we're going to shut it down" to an extension of the lease out to 2035 and now we're back to "we're finishing in 2019".'

It should not be overlooked that sandmining is the single largest employing sector on North Stradbroke Island. It directly and indirectly supports between 500 and 750 residents of the total population. Sand has been mined on North Stradbroke Island for the last 60 years, since 1949. Sandmining has been the major tenant on North Stradbroke Island for many decades, supporting other

businesses. For example, Sibelco comprises up to 30 per cent of business for the island's vehicle barge and ferry services and 26 per cent of the Stradbroke Ferries revenue. In a small business survey carried out in July 2015 by the Straddie chamber of commerce, results showed that approximately 85 per cent of the businesses favour sandmining continuing until at least 2025.

017 A total of 33 per cent favour an end date of 2035 and 33 per cent do not support the cessation of mining at all. In addition to employment, other economic benefits include royalties and taxes. Sibelco has confirmed that it is committed to making a substantial financial contribution to the economic transition strategy, assisting the Queensland government with diversifying the local economy to a future that is not reliant on sandmining. The KAP is committed to a sensible compromise by working with the community, industry and the Queensland government. The KAP is also committed to securing jobs and diversifying the North Stradbroke Island economy to a future that is not reliant on sandmining.

First Reading

Mr KNUTH (Dalrymple—KAP) (12.10 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.

~~MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST~~

~~Palaszczuk Labor Government~~

 ~~**Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.11 pm): Another day in the Queensland parliament and another day of evasion from the Premier and ministers on very important questions of integrity and accountability. We see this happening over and over again. It becomes somewhat difficult in this place if we are asking questions and we are not quite sure as to the information which is being used by those on the other side to defend themselves. This morning we saw a case in point. At no stage when we asked our question regarding the receipt of particular contact or information by the Premier's office did we ask any questions in relation to matters which we understand are before the Ethics Committee of the Queensland parliament. The only conclusion that we are able to—~~

~~**Mr HINCHLIFFE**: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think the Leader of the Opposition is misleading the House. The language that was used in a number of questions this morning directly impugned and suggested elements around documents. I think he is trying to cover his tracks from a bad question time.~~

~~**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! I am not sure what the member is referring to.~~

~~**Mr HINCHLIFFE**: I was suggesting that the Leader of the Opposition was misleading the House.~~

~~**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Order! There is no point of order.~~

~~**Mr SPRINGBORG**: Unless it is the case that the Premier's office is part of that consideration by the Ethics Committee and I would not know and others would not know one would have thought it would be okay to ask questions about the knowledge of individuals. These sorts of matters go to the heart of the integrity of this government. Over the last several weeks we have seen a set of circumstances where this angelic shroud which has been around the Premier on the issue of integrity, openness and accountability has looked a little more tarnished.~~

~~When the parliament last sat the Premier stood up in this place and reinforced the point over and over that she had no knowledge of a document which had been prepared in her office. I believe that is too much of a stretch, because there is an Economic Policy Group in the Premier's own department that is responsible for the development of economic policy and economic planning for this government. It is beyond the pale, it is unfathomable and incredible for anyone to believe there was no knowledge by the Premier or the Premier's office of the circumstances surrounding the construction of that~~