

22nd October 2013

The Chairman

Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Chairman,

Re: North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013

We would like to make a submission to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee concerning the “North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013”.

Our organisation the Straddie Sand Mining Community Fund (the Fund) was established by Sibelco Australia Ltd in 2012 and is funded by them to the extent of one million dollars per annum.

The Fund is managed independently of Sibelco by an Advisory Board consisting of local community members from the main population centres of Stradbroke Island. Over the past eighteen months the Fund has provided financial support to seven projects. The Fund has two broad objectives:

- Enhancing the quality of life of North Stradbroke Island residents, and
- Helping North Stradbroke Island to transition its economy post mining.

By way of explanation on the second objective, mining represents some 40% of the island's economy, so the island needs to reinvent itself economically once mining finishes. Whilst we have plans to achieve this they will take some time to be implemented. It is therefore necessary to continue mining as long as possible to allow this to occur.

The major issues facing North Stradbroke Island post mining are seen to be as follows:

- sharp reduction in ferry services
- reduction in employment
- reduction in house prices
- reduction in viability of many businesses on the island.

The Fund is working in partnership with other organisations such as the Redland City Council, the Straddie Chamber of Commerce and community based organisations on North Stradbroke Island. It is being guided by the Queensland Government report titled “The Sustainable Economic Future for North Stradbroke Island – Minjerribah” issued in December 2011.

The Fund sees continuation of mining, along the lines proposed in the current North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013 , as essential not only for Sibelco to continue to provide funds to the Fund, but also to give sufficient time for the economic transition of the island to occur.

The island has 2032 residents of who some 20% are indigenous. Failure to allow sufficient time for the economic transition of the island will bring significant hardship to the residents of North Stradbroke Island and will be a large cost to the Queensland Government.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me on my mobile 0412125252.

Yours faithfully



Jim Babon
Chairman
Straddie Sand Mining Community Fund