

**From:** [Darren Burns](#)  
**To:** [Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [ceo@qyac.com.au](mailto:ceo@qyac.com.au)  
**Subject:** Submission concerning Stradbroke island mining bill  
**Date:** Saturday, 26 October 2013 9:24:28 PM

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## **Re: Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013 (Bill)**

Dear Committee

I completely oppose the Bill which extends Enterprise mine on North Stradbroke Island from 2019 to at least 2035, with a further five years for rehabilitation.

Mining is not Stradbroke's future. Sixty years of mining is enough.

Mining destroys – forever – dune landscapes and habitats created over millennia. Mining will impact on the island's aquifers, Ramsar wetlands and endangered species such as koalas, acid frogs and swamp orchids.

The Bill will allow mining into areas completely surrounded by the National Park. In fact, mining will destroy earmarked future national park. The NSIPS Act 2011 provided for 80% of the island is to become national park, jointly managed by the Quandamooka People.

The Bill lowers the bar on environmental controls. It removes buffers for Ramsar and national park and allows mining disturbance into plant communities previously protected under the provisions of the NSIPS Act 2011. Conditions preventing off-lease harm, and the requirement for robust environmental studies preceding new mine sites, are weakened.

The Bligh government gave a very generous transition period, extending the most lucrative mine, Enterprise, by eight years to 2019.

It is a preposterous assertion that an extra 16 years are needed for transition, on top of 8 years already granted, for an industry that employs only 13% of the island's workers.

I am very concerned the government trampled over native title rights in order to make good favours to the mining company. The government has failed to consult with the Quandamooka People about the planned legislation but it met repeatedly with Sibelco, as revealed in the ABC 7.30 program (18.7.13) and in Estimates (19.7.13).

Sibelco is still before the courts facing charges for removing and selling sand from the island without permits. There are question marks over the lack of EPBC Act approval for Enterprise mine and the Commonwealth is investigating.

I am concerned a multimillion dollar PR campaign run by Sibelco, including spending \$90,000 in Ashgrove to get Mr Newman elected, has bought influence in government. This has every appearance of being a very dodgy deal. It is not what I expect from a government and it's an assault on the democratic principles of government.

The island's environment, the rights and interests of traditional owners and Stradbroke's nature brand are being sacrificed so the government can give Sibelco everything it asked for. This doesn't make economic sense. The Bill would hold the island back from a genuinely sustainable future.

The Quandamooka people voted to accept the NT consent determination deal which included the Mining deadlines this bill seeks to undo.

This is a direct attack & undermining of the known & recognised Quandamooka people's intention relating to mining on NSI

In doing so the Newman government has taken reconciliation backwards & enacted a progress that shows a disturbing disregard to the rights & place of aboriginal Australians in the Qld society.

That fact that Sibelco are still in court facing criminal charges of Sand theft of Quandamooka people's rightful resource & investigation also into breach of an international wetland convention & will actually be in court on Wednesday next week is outstandingly obvious of the special treatment they are receiving while the Quandamooka people's are getting the opposite treatment.

I request there be an inquiry into the apparent institutional racist & discriminatory imbalanced of treatment of the Quandamooka people's versus Sibelco interests which the bold & heartless inception of this bill blatantly illuminates.

The Newman government should be ashamed to be so mean as to introduce a Bill which removes protective measures aimed at preserving Cultural resources which were sought for by Quandamooka people's who have had their cultural resources mined for over 60 years during which time they also endured the White Australian policy as well as the assimilation policy.

In this day & age to introduce a bill which by its disregard to the human & legal NT rights of the Quandamooka people so as to be seemingly of the same Genocidal bloodymindedness of those darkest years of aboriginal race relations in this country.

I make no apologies for this strong language as this bill if passed will guarantee the early demise of Quandamooka people particularly our elders, our seniors through the sheer heartache, insult, contempt they thought they had lived through the worst of.

It seems Mr Newman is more than just oblivious to this lateral outcome maybe he doesn't care.

The Bill should be opposed.

Yours sincerely,

Darren burns

Quandamooka land council

Chairperson

PS A ridiculously short time has been given for public comment