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To: Committee for North Stradbroke Island Sustainability and  
Another Act Amendment Bill 2013

In Support of Sand Mining Extension

I have resided on North Stradbroke Island (NSI) for 20 years. During the time I conducted a business at Point Lookout for 15 years and for the past 5 years have been teaching at the local primary school at Dunwich. Throughout my period of residence I have been active in a number of community committees.

My experiences on NSI lead me to believe that the mining industry is of real importance to the island economy; not only with regard to those island residents employed by the mining company, but also through the flow on effects.

The present population of NSI is slightly more than 2000 people. Of these some 500 are employed, about 120 employed by the mining company. Income derived from this employment enables a number of businesses to remain viable and to offer further employment.

Extension of the mining lease as described in the proposed Act will enable present employment levels to continue into the foreseeable future. It will maintain the numbers attending the local primary school, enable the local rugby league club to maintain viable junior

football teams and ensure that people employed in businesses that support the mine worker population have a viable future.

The eco-tourism future proposed by those against the mining extension is seen to be a pipe dream. Most tourists who presently come to NSI do so because of the beautiful beaches and what the beaches have to offer. There are no other natural features that would draw tourists to NSI. The notion that eco-tourism will draw tourism income to replace the present income from mining is not well thought out.

The mining company, as well as providing about 25% of island jobs, pours a great deal of financial support into island activities. Organisations that benefit considerably from mining company generosity include the local primary school, the local football club, Island Vibes Jazz Festival, the indigenous elders, the water taxi landing pontoon at One Mile and many others. This support will disappear should the mines close.

As the mining operations cover only a small part of the island, and to all intents are invisible to most island residents, and because of the considerable benefits to the island from the mining operations, I support extension of the mining lease until 2035 as proposed. Continued operation of the mining company is critical to the island economy now and for the foreseeable future.

*David G Christie*

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