

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Re: Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013 (Bill)
Date: Sunday, 27 October 2013 9:05:52 AM

Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Parliament House, Brisbane QLD 4000
Email: arec@parliament.qld.gov.au
27.10.2013

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

Dear Committee

As a permanent resident of North Stradbroke Island, I oppose the Bill which extends Enterprise mine on North Stradbroke Island from 2019 to at least 2035, plus another five years for rehabilitation.

This Bill disrespects the traditional owners of North Stradbroke Island, the Quandamooka People. They have not been consulted. This is undemocratic and unacceptable. Unilateral action by the government to enact legislation exclusively favouring the mining company's interests vitiates the ILUA signed in 2011 as part of the native title determination.

In fact, no stakeholders were consulted in the preparation of this legislation, other than the mining company that alone benefits from it. This is called cronyism. It does not go unnoticed by the people of Queensland the large part played by Sibelco in the election of Mr Newman in Ashgrove. The government is tainted by its dealing exclusively with the mining company to deliver everything the mining company wants. This Bill does not deliver what benefits the people of NSI or Queensland, or what benefits the traditional owners, or what furthers a strong, stable economy for the island. The Bill delivers only what benefits Sibelco. This comes at the expense of the future diversified, sustainable economy of NSI – exactly what government is tasked to protect and nurture. This is unacceptable.

This Bill cannot deliver economic stability to NSI because in large part it destroys the environmental fabric and basis of that economic stability, which is the island's natural terrain and its natural identity. Mining is not compatible with a nature-based economy, which is what Stradbroke is so ideally suited to develop successfully as the long-term driver of its economy.

Mining is ending on NSI. The industry contributes a decreasing portion to the island's economy while other sectors show an increase. Mining employs only 13 per cent of the island workforce, and numbers have been declining over a decade. Where is the shining future spruiked by mining? NSI residents are not made wealthy from mining, neither is the community thriving, as successive censuses attest. Mining profits essentially go to a privately owned corporation in Belgium. The island is raped for the benefit of this multinational corporation. The Queensland government can't even negotiate a respectable deal for the state: \$75 million in royalties over the 16 extra years is a pittance.

This Bill guarantees that pristine lands will be bulldozed and forever destroyed. It guarantees that land earmarked future national park will go under. It guarantees serious environmental threats to unique natural features such as 18 Mile Swamp and Blue Lake.

No amount of fine words from government ministers can butter these parsnips. This Bill is a rotten, stitched-up deal that serves Stradbroke Island on a plate to the mining company. It is shameful.

So entrenched and powerful is Sibelco that NSI is colloquially being called *North Sibelco Island*. A senior Sibelco manager has even stated that the Belgian Emsens family that owns Sibelco 'bought' the island for one of the Emsens grandchildren. The traditional owners might have something to say about that. What are the birthright and future of their grandchildren worth?

It is difficult to credit that we are in 2013 and such ill-conceived, anti-environment, anti-economy, anti-social legislation is being written and passed in such a frightening and undemocratic manner.

This Bill should be opposed.

Yours faithfully

Haig Beck


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