

David P Keogh

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Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Parliament House,
Brisbane QLD 4000

By Email: arec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Submission to the Inquiry into North 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 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.

Submission – David Keogh

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. After all Tourism is one of the Government's four pillars. Tourism means more jobs than mining and provides job opportunities for young people, who otherwise will have to leave the island.

The Bill should be opposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Keogh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Keogh