

Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Parliament House, Brisbane QLD 4000  
Email: arec@parliament.qld.gov.au  
26.10.2013

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

Dear Committee

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

Sixty years of mining is enough. Mining is not Stradbroke's future. 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 now 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 has 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 my electorate of Ashgrove to get Mr Newman elected, has bought influence in government. I received one of the letters from the concerned mothers of Stradbroke, some of whom had no idea how their letters were to be used. 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 Bill should be opposed.

Yours sincerely,

Melody Cooper

  
The Gap 4061

PS Why has such a short time has been given for public comment?