

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Re: Submission to the Inquiry into North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013 (Bill)
Date: Sunday, 27 October 2013 7:00:24 PM

Re: Submission to the Inquiry into North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013 (Bill)

Dear Committee

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

The existing transition arrangements were generous to the mining interests but also ensured a rational establishment of long-term environmental protection. The Bill as proposed now compromises that protection and fosters a very real public cynicism, as it appears to overwhelmingly favour economic gain to a small but environmentally insensitive minority in the face of a well established strategy that was inclusive of all stakeholders.

How could we not be cynical of this new Bill?

Mining will never rate as a long term sustainable presence on the island and has already produced significant environmental hurdles which need to be overcome before a legitimate restorative regime can be established.

In the end the only thing to be gained by more mining is more money for the mining interests.

Good governance should seek to serve the whole community and not just prioritise according to transient economic rationalism.

By adhering to the existing transition strategy everyone benefits, and all Queenslanders get to appreciate the jewel that is North Stradbroke Island in it's best possible state...protected and managed co-operatively.

The following comments are not my own but I thoroughly endorse them.

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.

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 Bill should be opposed.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

David Renn

██████████ Redland Bay 4165 Qld

██████████