

SUBMISSION RE: EXTENDED MINING ON NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND.

**NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY AND ANOTHER ACT  
AMENDMENT BILL 2013.**

Name: Munzur George Khan

DOB: 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1945.

Address: [REDACTED], Dunwich. Qld. 4183

Employment Record: TAZI – North Stradbroke Island 1959 to 1966.

Consolidated Rutile, Iluka - 1966 to 2004

Sole Trader working within Mining and North Stradbroke Island Community - 2004 to present.

**Brief History:**

When I first commenced work on North Stradbroke Island – conditions were fairly primitive – although through the Mining Company TAZI – power supply was reticulated to the township of Dunwich whilst Point Lookout and Amity relied on own generators or alternative energy sources (Gas, wood fired stoves, coke stoves with attached hot water.) Water was reticulated to township of Dunwich via the system that was installed by the Institution and maintained by the Redland Shire Council., Point Lookout and Amity depended on tank water. Roads were dirt or red clay/gravel from the Dunwich quarry.

Transport to the Island was limited to Water Ferry from Cleveland running 3 return trips per day, Barge Services from Redland Bay 1 or 2 trips per week – landing on the beach near the Dunwich swimming enclosure and Hayles Cruises boats from Brisbane on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Transport on the Island was via a taxi in Dunwich and blitz 4x4 Buses from Amity to Point Lookout.

Some individuals had vehicles and the Mining Company had several 4x4 utes in the townships.

Telephone services was via an exchange at Dunwich linked the Amity and Point Lookout and after hours services were very limited.

Medical Services were limited to a weekly Doctors visit with the surgery setup in the Dunwich Public Hall with limited times as the doctors had to work within the boat timetable.

After hours emergencies were handled by local people with first aid training, fishing boats or callout of ferry from Cleveland and the community pulling together.

Schooling was provided to Primary levels however it required students to live away from home to attend Secondary Education facilities as transportation was not available to allow attendance on a daily basis.

All of this was considered reasonable but tourism was limited and accommodation was very limited so mining provided employment and some accommodation which fostered businesses to be established with a certainty of trade as the worker had to live on the Island.

Over the years the community worked together to ensure people were given a fair go and that families in need received assistance.

Progress:

The Island went from strength to strength based on the injection of funds from the Mining Industry.

In 1966 Consolidated Rutile commenced operations and with two companies in the area employment opportunities increased rapidly. Also Consolidated Rutile embarked upon a building program to provide 50 houses and single quarters for 40 workers. With increase in population came an increase in transportation to the island.

Infrastructure improvements commenced with additional power requirements and guarantees from the Mining Companies SEQEB installed high voltage transmission lines from the mainland via the SMBI thus allowing reticulation to Amity and Point Lookout.

Sealed roads were constructed, improvements to education facilities to cater for increased students including the construction of a Secondary Department to cater to year 10, a medical clinic was constructed in Dunwich with a trained nursing sister available 24/7 and providing a clinic for visiting Doctors from Cleveland.

With progress and cash flow came the investors constructing rental properties in all three townships thus both permanent rentals and holiday rentals increased rapidly. With the additional transport services tourism strengthened and additional business houses were established.

The two mining companies combined to provide an assured income to attract a doctor to establish a permanent clinic on the Island. This led to a permanent ambulance service and connections to fast boat services and helicopter services thus giving the community comfort in the knowledge that first class medical services were available 24/7. Following on from this a VMR was established and with assistance from the mining established purchased and equipped a suitable boat capable of medical evacuations.

The local clubs benefited with an RSL Club building established, Golf Course improvements, All Sports Club established, Little Ships Club redevelopment, Bowls Club established, Community Club at Amity and Surf Life Saving establishing a junior club and able to purchase additional rescue equipment and patrol vehicles.

Community growth

Along with these developments came the community development where by young people married, purchased homes started families and looked to a bright future.

Young people had more opportunities to work in the mines, complete apprenticeships/traineeships. Complete specialist training in operation of machinery, retrain to cope with technical advances and in general plan their lives with the security of permanent employment. This is demonstrated in the number of employees who have completed in excess of 20 years service and the number of family members who are employed within the local industry.

Power and water are reticulated to the townships, bitumen roads have been constructed and in some areas sewerage installed. There is a program to sewer 75% of Dunwich by June 2015. The Mining provides royalties, Rates and Excise Duties which all assist with these programs.

Tourism has improved due to the increased injection of cash into the rental accommodation and vastly improved transport services and continues to grow.

Education opportunities have vastly improved with students able to travel to Secondary and Tertiary facilities on a daily basis.

## Conclusion

Whilst the mining has provided cash injections and security into the economy, allowed improved services to develop, assisted with infrastructure developments, ensured adequate entertainment facilities to be constructed and worked to secure medical and essential services there are some more important aspects associated with mining.

Safety awareness and training has improve the lifestyle of the community – returning safely from a day’s work to the family builds a stronger community.

Improved wellbeing through health checks, awareness of signs for potential sickness, drug and alcohol awareness training, family assistance to overcome conflicts and other wellbeing programs which are a very important part of a responsible corporate partner.

Cultural Heritage awareness and training, wildlife preservation, improved rehabilitation programs all form part of an important lesson in preservation of our total environment.

Acceptance of past legacies and installation of positive programs to rectify. Acknowledging that although some of these were created over 30 years ago that they need to be addressed.

By accepting that the Island is not as isolated as it was in the early 60’s and that provision of a total accommodation package was not as essential initiated a program of selling homes to employees at a discounted value. This allowed the employees to “live the great Australian dream” – something that would not have been possible to a large percentage of them.

Some say that by selling the homes and allowing employees to travel daily there was a change to the community- this is a fact, however it allowed employees to transfer between mainland operations and the Island and vice versa – it allowed employment of people from the Redlands and Brisbane areas without the necessity of uprooting the family and moving to the Island. Whilst the movement of population has had effect of business houses it must be accepted that people will travel to the mainland and shop – to get the bargains – it is only human nature.

North Stradbroke Island has been, still is and always will be a beautiful place. What is required is a staged development in consultation with the traditional owners over a long period to ensure that all can enjoy a place so close to a Capital City.

This will take time and requires continued capital injections and a cooperative working relationships between all parties from Federal Government to the local community. Mining has provided many benefits to the Island and has been the main source of financial support. This needs to continue to ensure the full potential of the Island resources both in tourism and mining is achieved in orderly and timely manner.

Quote: “ The evil that man does lives after them – the good is oft interred with their bones”