

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

Dear Committee,

As a Queensland resident, I believe it is essential that I voice my serious concerns about the *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013*.

Sand mining is Straddie's past, not its future.

The island's future requires a sustainable and diverse economy based on Stradbroke's natural values, including tourism, education, arts and culture. Prolonged mining will only damage Stradbroke's unique nature brand.

As the second largest sand island in the world, North Stradbroke Island already attracts between 300,000 and 400,000 people each year.

The potential cost in lost tourism income from continuing sand mining is not worth the income from mining royalties, which over the life of the mines represent less than 0.2% of the Queensland Government's income this year alone.

Worryingly, this Bill only serves the interests of big mining companies – to the detriment of our precious natural environment.

During the 2012 State Election, Belgian miner, Sibelco, spent over \$90,000 to get Campbell Newman elected in Ashgrove.

The Newman Government has since granted Sibelco exclusive access to political staff to discuss “making or amendment of legislation” without any Departmental officers present.

Meanwhile, the Newman Government has ridden roughshod over native title agreements and failed to consult with the native titleholders, the Quandamooka People.

This Bill, which extends sand mining on the island until 2035, represents an unfair deal that sells out the future of North Stradbroke Island for small economic gain.

It must be opposed.

Yours sincerely

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