

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and other Act Amendment Bill 2013
Date: Sunday, 27 October 2013 11:11:05 PM

The provisions to extend the life of sand mining on North Stradbroke Island is not in the public interest.

This island has extraordinary features in a geological, biological, hydrological and anthropological sense. Government has an obligation to recognise these features and ensure that they are protected in perpetuity in the public interest.

All these features are destroyed by mining to some degree. The degree of destruction to date is significant and is mounting. It needs to end as soon as possible through an appropriate phase out process.

I submit the phase out period and process provided in the current Act is appropriate. Any extension is inappropriate.

I certainly recognise the positive economic contribution mining has made to the North Stradbroke Island community over time. However the cost to the island has been significant and in some cases horrendous. Sadly what has been done can not be undone.

Every area mined is permanently destroyed. Rehabilitation is commendable and essential, but it is cosmetic. The biodiversity can not be recreated, nor can the geology and hydrology.

Sadly no consideration was ever given to Aboriginal interests during most of the history of this industry on North Stradbroke Island. Significant sites have been completely destroyed. Like the other features, they are permanently gone. They can not be recreated. The Aboriginal people have suffered considerable loss and were not consulted.

The advent of Native Title granted to the Quandamooka people over the island was a significant step towards a more just regime for these first people. Yet unchallenged reports say the Native Title holders were yet again not consulted. I find Government statements that there was no requirement to consult staggering. Surely the spirit of the Law says there is a need to consult, even if the letter does not. I see the black history of treatment of native people repeated by both Government and the mining industry. This distresses me. Surely this is an injustice that must be rectified.

The economic future for North Stradbroke Island is not mining. It is Nature based. The more destruction of the natural features, the poorer the asset on which the future economy is based.

Certainly there is a short term cost to the community with the cessation of mining. But there is a greater cost by continuing.

I urge the Committee to take a long term view of this matter and recognise that to extend the mining provisions in terms of time and magnitude is not in the public interest.

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