

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee; jan@wildlifefilms.com.au](mailto:jan@wildlifefilms.com.au)
Subject: Private submission on the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013
Date: Monday, 28 October 2013 8:38:06 AM

Chair
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Queensland Parliament

Dear Mr Rickuss and Committee members,

RE: North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013 ("The Bill")

This submission is made on my own behalf and not on behalf of any organisation or of other persons.

I am opposed to this Bill which I regard as a significant backward step for the conservation of nature in Queensland.

North Stradbroke Island has always been a magnet to me since I first visited as a child in the old wooden ferry to Dunwich. Growing up I crisscrossed the island on foot, on bike, bus and car visiting its special places like Blue Lake and beaches that are the envy of the world. I have my entire life enjoyed its quiet natural beauty. It has been a lifetime frustration to me that so little of the island was open for me to visit because of sand mining leases that locked up so much of the island away from public access for private profit, despite being state land.

The *Stradbroke Island Sustainability and Protection Act 2011*, put 80% of the island on track to become national park by 2026 with an orderly phase out of sand mining which had been long opposed by Indigenous and conservation interests. These national parks were to be jointly managed by the Quandamooka people under an agreement separately made, while the island would develop its new identity and economy as a nature tourism destination as Fraser and Moreton Islands also have done.

This latest Bill by the Newman Government undermines that historic achievement and the apparently also the Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Quandamooka people. The Bill pushes out the transition to national parks into the distant future, it removes restrictions on mining put in place to avoid threatened ecosystems and species and even proposes new mining leases.

Alarming the Bill also removes yet more statutory protections from the Vegetation Management Act, contrary to the LNP's 2012 election promise, by removing any need for revegetation of a watercourse or erosion control, or to minimise and mitigate the effects of a proposed clearing project, according to explanatory notes to the Bill.

The Newman government by continually degrading environmental legislation in this way is undermining its own stated purpose to grow the tourism economy. Tourists are disinclined to visit places that show contempt for wildlife and the natural environment. After all, for most tourists, that's why they are visiting in the first place.

Yours sincerely

Martin Taylor

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Manly West 4179