

Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Parliament House, Brisbane QLD 4000
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SUBMISSSION – To the Inquiry into the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013

Name – Jennie Truman

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I am a resident of the Point Lookout township. I own and manage three businesses at Point Lookout. I have been in business on the Island for 25 years.

I object to the proposed Amendment to the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Bill.

Reasons –

I am sickened and angered by the propoganda trawled about in the media, local meetings and written information by Sibelco in an effort to divide and conquer the communities of the Island.

In my view the company has been successful in pitting family members against each other, indigenous tribes against each other and have dictated policy to government -all for increasing the Company profits.

It will not be beneficial to the island's economic, social or environmental future to allow 20 more years of mining.

The mining operations on Stradbroke are not sustainable –the mining industry is not the backbone of the economy of the Island. It is a fact that the accommodation tourism industry employs more people on the Island than Sibelco.

The mining operations on the Island have been winding down for the past ten years with redundancies, sale of houses, closing of the silica mine and imminent closing of the Yarraman mine.

A large percentage of mine workers now commute from the mainland giving no economic or social input into the Island community.

It is a fact that the mining industry has been a destructive force on the Island's land and underground water.

The rehabilitation process carried out by Sibelco can not replace flora or fauna biodiversity or the original profile of soils in the historical dune systems, leaving a very poor imitation.

20 more years of this destruction will stand in the way of seeking a sustainable future for the island in nature and education based tourism.

The mining industry has closed off the majority of the Island for 50 years.

It is time that the potential for nature based tourism be explored in the areas that have been closed off – the perched lakes, hidden valleys, forests, wetlands and mountains that are in the areas south of the Tazi Road.

I object to the relaxing of environmental monitoring conditions in the proposed amended Environmental Authority and the dismissal of environmental studies to be done for any new mine area within Enterprise.

I object to overturning the restricted mine path conditions at Enterprise mine allowing further land to be destroyed close to wetlands and National Parks.

I object to the way Sibelco and the government have trampled over Native Title rights to increase profits for a foreign company.

I have calculated that the phasing out of the mining industry on the Island, if carried out in the next few years, will not have a detrimental effect on my family's businesses.

If the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013 is passed then we all may as well change the Island name to North Sibelco Island, because the company will continue its strangle hold over the environment and community for another 20 years.

Jennie Truman