

27 October 2013

Mr Ian Rickuss MP
Chairman,
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Queensland Parliament,
Cnr George and Alice St
Brisbane Qld 4000.

via email arec@parliament.qld.gov.au

**RE: Submission to
North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act
Amendment Bill 2013**

Dear Sir,

We understand Parliament is considering the above bill which will extend the life of the Enterprise mine to 2035. Mining has provided our family, our friends and us with a good start in life and steady employment for over 18 years.

Please accept this letter as a formal submission from our family to the Bill.

I came to this island for research purposes in the early 1990's as a student for the University of Queensland. I was drawn to the location for the variety of research opportunities afforded by the restoration program for then, Consolidated Rutile Limited.

Upon finishing my degree in environmental science, I was fortunate to undertake some part time employment, which later lead to full time employment in 1995. I joined what was essentially an extended family and was welcomed into the community by those from all walks of life.

It was the first time I had found somewhere that reminded me of where I had grown up as a kid.

Work progressed, so did our family and before long we had a house, a mortgage and two beautiful children. We became wildlife rescue volunteers, members of the swimming club and school, and Ally became president of the Early Learning Centre. I joined the fire brigade, and recently the VMR and Chamber of commerce. Without the steady employment from the mining on NSI, we would never have been afforded these opportunities.

Living on an island is also expensive and somewhat restrictive. Sure this is offset by the wonderful environment, but it would be difficult to sustain without the employment

the mine brings, as well as the just-frequent-enough ferry services. Without the base load mining brings, this lifestyle would only be available to a few.

It would soon become similar to Moreton Island, where only a few can live due to the costs and restrictions.

Therefore we were dismayed by the short sighted political decision to legislate and change the rules for us and so many of our friends and neighbours. Suddenly, the prospects for the island changed and so did the feel of the community.

The extension of the mining operations as proposed in the Bill will generate confidence in NSI and certainty for the economy. It will also bring some much needed stability back to this location and allow the community to move on and plan for a new economy that eventually doesn't include mining, without the sudden shock that would occur in less than 6 years time if it doesn't change.

Yes we are vested interests, so will be all of the submissions received for and against this Bill. All we know is that sand mining has given us a good start in life and some wonderful memories. We hope that it does the same for many other families for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity for us to submit.

Yours Sincerely

Paul and Allyson Smith