

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013
Date: Monday, 28 October 2013 10:42:02 AM

Submission to the Inquiry into the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013

Dear committee,

The above Act should not proceed for the following reasons –

1. Enterprise mine is very close to Ramsar listed wetlands. Scientific evidence shows mining to have had a significant impact on these wetlands and the Federal Environment Department is investigating Sibelco's non-compliance with the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. The Bill should not proceed until this is resolved.
2. Sibelco is also presently facing criminal charges in the Queensland Magistrates Court for removing and selling sand without the relevant permits. Therefore, the Bill should not proceed until this case has concluded.
3. The largely old growth forest in the proposed extended mine path is home to koalas and glossy black cockatoos and other threatened species which need to be protected.
4. If damage to Stradbroke's environment continues for the sake of short-term jobs in mining long-term sustainable jobs associated with nature tourism will probably be sacrificed. The Bill will therefore lead to loss of employment opportunities in the long-term, not a gradual transition as claimed.
5. North Stradbroke Island is more valuable to Queenslanders if it is retained forever as a natural resource for tourism and recreation rather than destroyed for quick profit by a privately-owned Belgian mining company.
6. The native title owners of the Island, the Quandamooka people, have not been consulted about the proposed legislation.
7. This Bill fails to restore the rights of Queenslanders to object to a mining extension and challenge a renewal in court. That right is available to them under the Mineral Resources Act which applies everywhere else in Queensland.
8. Sibelco has been given preferential treatment by the government by way of a special law that bypasses the Mineral Resources Act.

For the above reasons I request that the Bill not go ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Edith McPhee

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