

**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 10:47:04 AM

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Dear Members of the Parliamentary Committee examining the new North Stradbroke mining Bill, Firstly I would like to express my concern about the short time frame given members of the public to make submissions concerning the the new act to make amendments, given the amount of consultation the government has undertaken with the mining company - Stradbroke Island is a much loved place, not just a mine for a very people to make a living form and a company a LOT of profit from.

We are right in the middle of end-of-the-school-year activities and very pressed for time.

I am a regular visitor to North Stradbroke Island, enjoying the birds, the bush and the beaches - so much of the the wildlife [is unique to Stradbroke Island and its special wetlands. I have been visiting North and South Stradbroke since I first came from central Queensland to Brisbane, over 35 years ago.

I understand the extension of the mine being proposed will wipe out around 14sq km of largely old growth forest on North Stradbroke Island. The mining company does "rehabilitate" cleared and mined land- but that only means re-shaping the sand that remains [and they get it wrong!] and re-vegetating. This re-vegetation does not contain the old growth trees, with their hollows and refuge places, that provide shelter and nesting to spots to many bird species and bats. The mining destroys the natural land form, and when things go wrong [as they do - see what happened to Amity swamp], wetlands and springs are lost. The wetlands of Stradbroke Island are important for rare and endangered native species, and also the migratory birds - Straddie is a wonderful place to see them and this is a much more enduring and valuable asset than the final extraction of the remaining rutile by Sibelco. Stradbroke Island's has much more LONG\_TERM potential for tourism than a mining company gone in 20 years [at the longest]. And Sibelco locks away the areas on its mining leases so people can't visit and enjoy these natural places - it is a selfish operation. Also, they are not a law-abiding corporate citizen [having taken sand without licence, made political donations without disclosure], and so have shown themselves to be untrustworthy and unworthy of operating in a place where special care is needed.

We. people who care about and visit Stradbroke, will keep doing so, and our children and grand-children will - long after a Belgium family-owned company has departed our shores. But what they'll have destroyed, if this mining extension is allowed, is places for black cockatoos, swamp frogs and orchids, and so much more. They destroy FUTURE land uses for Stradbroke and are putting themselves outside the Mineral Resources Act where the FUTURE uses need to be considered.

Consequently I would like the the Parliamentary Committee to consider the following:

**The North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013 should not proceed for the following reasons -**

1. Because of the proximity of Ramsar listed wetlands to the Enterprise mine and scientific evidence of mining having a significant impact on those wetlands, the Federal Environment Department is investigating Sibelco's decade long non-compliance with the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. The Bill should not proceed until this is resolved.
2. The Bill removes the requirement for ongoing environmental studies of the largely old growth forest in the proposed extended mine path. The habitat of Koalas and Glossy Black Cockatoos and other threatened animals needs to be protected.

3. Long term sustainable jobs associated with nature tourism are likely to be sacrificed if damage to Stradbroke's environment continues for the sake of short term jobs in mining. The Bill will lead to loss of employment opportunities in the long term not a gradual transition as claimed.
4. North Stradbroke Island is more valuable to Queenslanders retained forever as a natural resource for tourism and recreation than destroyed for quick profits by a privately owned Belgian mining company.
5. The North Stradbroke Island 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.
6. Sibelco has been given preferential treatment by the government by way of a special law that bypasses the Mineral Resources Act.
7. It is inappropriate that favours are being granted to a company currently facing criminal charges in the Queensland Magistrates Court. The Bill should be shelved until the case has concluded.

My name is Margaret Barram, of [REDACTED] Highgate Hill 4101 [REDACTED]  
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with kind regards  
Margie