

Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Parliament House, Brisbane QLD 4000  
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28.10.2013

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

Dear Committee

I am writing to state my opposition to this Bill which extending Enterprise mine on North Stradbroke Island from 2019 to at least 2035.

I have come to appreciate the amount of diversity still remaining on some of the land that mining leases cover from regular bushwalks on this Island. My fear is that extending leases will range into areas of incredible biodiversity that will never be replaced. Ongoing mining will also potentially affect the island's aquifers and the species some of which are endangered that live there.

The Bill will allow mining into areas completely surrounded by the National Park. In fact, mining will destroy earmarked future national park. The NSIPS Act 2011 provided for 80% of the island is to become national park, jointly managed by the Quandamooka People.

The Bill lowers the bar on environmental controls. It removes buffers for Ramsar and national park and allows mining disturbance into plant communities previously protected under the provisions of the NSIPS Act 2011. Conditions preventing off-lease harm, and the requirement for robust environmental studies preceding new mine sites, are weakened.

The Bligh government gave a very generous transition period, extending the most lucrative mine, Enterprise, by eight years to 2019.

It is a preposterous assertion that an extra 16 years are needed for transition, on top of 8 years already granted, for an industry that employs only 13% of the island's workers.

I am very concerned the government trampled over native title rights in order to make good favours to the mining company. The government has

failed to consult with the Quandamooka People about the planned legislation but it met repeatedly with Sibelco, as revealed in the ABC 7.30 program (18.7.13) and in Estimates (19.7.13).

Sibelco is still before the courts facing charges for removing and selling sand from the island without permits. There are question marks over the lack of EPBC Act approval for Enterprise mine and the Commonwealth is investigating.

I am concerned a multimillion dollar PR campaign run by Sibelco, including spending \$90,000 in Ashgrove to get Mr Newman elected, has bought influence in government. This has every appearance of being a very dodgy deal. It is not what I expect from a government and it's an assault on the democratic principles of government.

The island's environment, the rights and interests of traditional owners and Stradbroke's nature brand are being sacrificed so the government can give Sibelco everything it asked for. This doesn't make economic sense. The Bill would hold the island back from a genuinely sustainable future.

The Bill should be opposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Yours sincerely,

*Assoc Prof Darryl Eyles*

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*Point lookout*

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