

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
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The public consultation period for this Bill has been extremely short - the Government must pay greater respect to the Queensland electorate regarding such important matters. Rushing legislation through without due consideration to public debate and proper consideration is becoming the normal course of action.

The North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013 should not proceed for a number of important reasons -

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.

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 is very likely to lead to loss of employment opportunities in the long term not a gradual transition as claimed.

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.

North Stradbroke Island is more valuable to Queenslanders retained forever as a natural resource for tourism and recreation than damaged (possibly permanently) for quick profits by a privately owned Belgian mining company.

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.

Sibelco has been given preferential treatment by the government by way of a special law that bypasses the Mineral Resources Act. 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.

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