


Roberta Bonnin


Wellington Point
Queensland, 4160
28th October 2013

Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Parliament House, Brisbane QLD 4000
Email: arec@parliament.qld.gov.au
28.10.2013

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

Dear Committee

The Newman Government was elected to bring responsible economic development to Queensland. Extending the mining on North Stradbroke Island to 2015 is not responsible economic planning, for reasons I shall set out in this submission.

Having spent the last eight years working with the Stradbroke Island community and Quandamooka Indigenous peoples I have direct knowledge and experience of North Stradbroke Island economic and employment conditions which support my position to completely oppose the Bill which extends Enterprise mine on North Stradbroke Island from 2019 to at least 2035, with a further five years for rehabilitation.

Economists know that sustainable economic development must be based in and rely on the culture of the community in which it will take root and grow. While mining has been part of the culture of North Stradbroke Island in recent history, the island's culture is rooted deeply in its environment, Indigenous community, its fishing and transport families, visitors and holiday makers, and the many small businesses that support both the basic needs and lifestyle activities of these people.

In 2011 extensive community, business and government consultation was undertaken to develop an economic transition strategy for North Stradbroke Island to complement the phasing out of mining. Sibelco was a major player in this consultation process, along with Redland City Council, the Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Qld and the Indigenous community. All those consulted were well aware of the transitional nature of tourism and the importance of other forms of business, industry, training and employment.

The economic transition strategy contained cost effective actions to stimulate existing and new business enterprises, build required infrastructure, undertake necessary land use planning and support the social and community needs of the island's resident population.

Key areas of the economic transition strategy included tourism, small

business initiatives, educational options for students coming to the island for specialised courses, training for residents and workers on the islands, and a range of Indigenous business of which the Stradbroke Holiday Parks run by the Quandamooka People and Indigenous Business Australia was to commence immediately.

A successful economic transition strategy requires investment from all sectors – business, community and government. It also requires a government to support the culture of the community where, in the case of North Stradbroke Island, mining is only a small element. To base the future of the island's economy on an unsustainable mining industry that will conflict with the environment, Indigenous Native Title commitments, tourism and small business innovation is not only short-sighted, it breaks the Campbell Newman Government's pledge to deliver responsible economic development in Queensland.

I sincerely ask the Government and the Committee hearing this Inquiry to not amend the **North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act** and alternatively to recommend and put in place an exciting program of economic actions based on a review of the economic transition strategy, affordability, environmental values, and the island's strong local culture.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours faithfully,

Roberta Bonnin