

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 7:32:49 PM
Importance: High

Dear Committee,
I implore you, on behalf of our nation's heritage to consider the following when making your recommendations to the parliament on the above.

I completely oppose the Bill which extends Enterprise mine on North Stradbroke Island from 2019 to at least 2035,
Sixty years of mining on Stradbroke Island is more than enough. I have been visiting Stradbroke Island with my family since the early 60's. During that time I have witnessed the ugly scar of mining spread across the island taking with it the dunes and many of the island's endangered species. 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.

Unbelievably 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 ridiculous assertion that an extra 16 years are needed for transition, on top of 8 years already granted, for an industry that currently 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.

Yours sincerely,

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