

**Submission to Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Queensland Parliament**

**With respect to**

**North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another  
Act Amendment Bill 2013**

The permanent ban on smokeless tobacco products came into effect on 4 June 1991. This was a politically expedient move by the Hawke Labour Government to buy off the Anti-tobacco lobby upon which I believe the Hawke government relied for significant election campaign funding.

The Hawke government could not afford to lose its tax revenues from banning other tobacco sales so it offered up a minute section of the tobacco industry whose tax revenues were minute and this assuaged the sensitivities of its electoral contributor.

Likewise the Bligh Labour government could not afford to lose the revenues which enjoyed from the Queensland Mining Industry but it had to do something to assuage the Greens whose preferences enabled it to retain power.

To this end it introduced legislation to curtail sandmining on North Stradbroke Island which provided just 1% of the government's mining revenues.

This was cynically expedient legislation introduced by a government desperate to retain power. It most certainly did not consider the welfare of the Stradbroke Island which elected it or the Island's native wildlife..

Thus it can be said that it was bad legislation which offered a paltry \$10,000,000 to enable the Island economy to transition to a new, post-sandmining future in just 13 years.

This new legislation will give the Stradbroke business community time to develop new ventures and sell its tourism and eco products to the wider community.

It has been suggested that sand mining is bad for the unique Island native wildlife population. Nothing could be further from the truth. Sand mining utilises only a very small part of the Island and as soon as the mining dredge has passed a spot the mined area is rehabilitated to such a standard that mined areas are indistinguishable from unmined parts of the Island within a few years. Premier Bligh found this out to her eternal embarrassment.

Feral foxes are a far greater threat to the Island than sandmining. The current feral animal control officer estimates that a population of 1,000+ foxes live on the island. Each of fox kills about three native animals a day. This means that 3,000 native animals are dying each and every day or 1.1 million animals a year. Sibelco has invested many thousands of dollars trying to defeat this threat to native wildlife by introducing the feral animal control officer to the Island and employing him until the previous government stopped the company from baiting or shooting foxes on Sibelco's mining leases.

Sibelco has been over the years and continues to be a good citizen in the Island business Community.

Just last night the Amity General Store burned to the ground throwing a number of the Amity community out of a job and causing all visitors and Amity Point residents great distress. The nearest place where groceries, fuel and gas can now be purchased is a 30 km round trip away. This is going to be especially hard on older members of the community who can no longer drive and will need to travel 38 km to buy the necessities of life. Already Sibelco has offered whatever support is most appropriate to get the Amity Point community back on its feet and residents re-employed. That is the action of a company which truly supports the community in which it operates.

Without Sibelco this Island would not have a Golf Club, it would not have a Football Club or many other amenities which Sibelco has assisted in funding.

As a visitor to the Island over many years and friend of Stradbroke Island residents I believe that the proposed legislation will:-

- Prove the time necessary for the Stradbroke Island economy to vibrant post sandmining;
- Enable Sibelco to continue its efforts to protect native wildlife through sponsoring ongoing university research;
- Allow Sibelco to continue to be a vital and valuable member of the wider Stradbroke Community.

Regards,

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