

SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO THE NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND PROTECTION SUSTAINABILITY
AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL 2013

TO: THE INQUIRY CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above bill, however please be advised it is insufficient notice of time to adequately address this critical important decision on the future land use on North Stradbroke Island/Minjerriba which is before you for deliberation.

I am a resident and commercial business owner of North Stradbroke Island involved in the retail, hospitality, accommodation industries servicing both the local community , tourists and visitors here over thirty-five years.

I wish to express my opposition to the granting of a further twenty plus years of mining on North Stradbroke Island/Minjerriba on some of the following grounds:

-granting of further 20 plus years effectively locks up the island, excluding all people with the exceptions of mining personell and their associates, for the exclusive use of the miners
-effectively locks out at least two thirds of the island from the local residents and visitors
-people are excluded from some of the significant environmental features of the island
-it is unavoidable to access favourite sections of the island without having to traverse the current expansive leases, let alone keep people out for another 20 plus years
-island people and others would need to become 'like thieves in the night' stealthing around the island to avoid being prosecuted to see and experience their island
-the current miner is a private company and is not accountable to shareholders, key stakeholders, and interested community groups.
-unlike the previous miners this current organisation lacks dialogue with key stakeholders including the Quandamooka people
-with the adjacent mainland population of over two million people there is an important need for more significant areas of national park tenure here, than the miniscule area currently gazetted on Minjerriba.
-do not lose a future opportunity to expand national parks over our high conservation areas by this bill excluding this critical option in giving over to the mining industry.
-the mining leases are totally over water catchment and water supply for Redlands city and beyond, this is most important to take into consideration for further granting of these leases as our water is our most precious commodity.
-mining has been excluded in other states over water catchments due to adverse impacts

I believe, as a business person, NOW IS THE TIME after over sixty years of mining here, and its recorded atrocities, over a major water catchment, to transform to future clean, green and genuinely sustainable industries for North Stradbroke Island/Minjerriba

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Lance Blemmings J.P.

28th October, 2013

Point Lookout, Q., 4183