



Department of
**Environment and
Heritage Protection**

Our Ref CTS 30267/15
Your Ref B12.15.02

18 January 2016

Ms Di Farmer MP
Chair, Finance and Administration Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane, Queensland 4000

Dear Ms Farmer

Thank you for your letter dated 15 December 2015 concerning the Finance and Administration Committee's (Committee) inquiry into the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability (Renewal of Mining Leases) Amendment Bill 2015 and North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015.

As previously provided, the nominated contact for the Committee's inquiry from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection is Mr Geoff Robson, Executive Director, Strategic Environment and Waste Policy who can be contacted on _____ or by email

For matters relating to the draft North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy, please contact Ms Danielle Ellem, Director, Industry Strategy and Policy, Office of the Chief Economist, Department of State Development on _____ or by email

I understand that the closing date for written submissions on the Bill is 4.00pm, Monday 29 February 2016. After the close of submissions and provision of the documents, my department will be happy to provide a written briefing on the submissions.

As requested, please find attached information that addresses the following matters raised by the Committee:

- Background to and current status of mining leases and mining activity on North Stradbroke Island (Attachment 1 with Appendix)
- Overview of traditional owners and current status of Indigenous land rights over North Stradbroke Island (Attachment 2)
- Chronology of legislative amendments and policy positions of successive governments (Attachment 3)
- Consultation undertaken in the development of the Bill including details of stakeholders consulted, timing of consultation activities and results of consultation (Attachment 4)
- Economic statistics for the North Stradbroke Island regional economy including key industries and employment provided by the Department of State Development (Attachment 5)
- The key objectives, proposals and allocated funding for the North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy (Attachment 6 with Appendix)

Please also find attached the Enterprise Mine Restricted Mine Path map that is referred to in the Bill (Attachment 7).

I note the dates you have provided for public briefing on the Bill, public forums and hearings, and I can confirm that Geoff Robson will be in attendance if required. I will also ensure that the names and positions of any additional staff are provided to the Committee by Friday 5 February 2016.

I hope the attached information is of assistance. Should your staff have any further enquiries, please ask them to contact Geoff Robson, Executive Director, Strategic Environment and Waste Policy of the Department on telephone

Yours sincerely

TENURE	NUMBER	PRINCIPAL HOLDER	PROJECT	PREV STATUS	STATUS	NSIPS EFFECT	Pre-NSIPS EXPIRY	NSIPS EXPIRY
SECTION 10 - MINING LEASES THAT EXPIRE PRIOR TO 31 DECEMBER 2019, NO RENEWAL ACCEPTED								
ML	1107	AMACA PTY LIMITED		GRANTED	GRANTED	EXPIRE PRIOR TO 2019, NO RENEWAL SEC 10	28-Feb-13	28-Feb-13
ML	50228	GREEN COAST RESOURCES PTY LTD		GRANTED	GRANTED	EXPIRE PRIOR TO 2019, NO RENEWAL SEC 10	31-Jul-13	31-Jul-13
SECTION 10 - RENEWAL DEEMED WITHDRAWN ON 14 APRIL 2011								
ML	1116	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	ENTERPRISE	GRANTED	NC	REN DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 10; National Park	31-Oct-07	14-Apr-11
ML	1123	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	VANCE	GRANTED	NC	REN DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 10; National Park	31-Oct-08	14-Apr-11
ML	1126	RIVERSIDE INDUSTRIAL SANDS PTY LTD	VANCE	GRANTED	NC	REN DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 10;	30-Nov-10	14-Apr-11
ML	1132	ACI OPERATIONS PTY LTD	AMITY	GRANTED	NC	REN DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 10; pt National Park	30-Apr-11	30-Apr-11
ML	1159	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	GORDON	GRANTED	NC	REN DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 10; National Park	28-Feb-10	14-Apr-11
ML	1160	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	AMITY	GRANTED	NC	REN DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 10; National Park	31-Oct-07	14-Apr-11
ML	1161	TALL Alexander Stephen George	BAYSIDE	GRANTED	NC	REN DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 10; National Park	31-Oct-09	14-Apr-11
ML	1162	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	ENTERPRISE	GRANTED	NC	REN DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 10; National Park	31-Mar-09	14-Apr-11
ML	1164	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	GORDON	GRANTED	NC	REN DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 10; National Park	28-Feb-09	14-Apr-11
ML	1172	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	AMITY	GRANTED	NC	REN DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 10; National Park	31-May-10	14-Apr-11
ML	1174	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	IBIS	GRANTED	NC	REN DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 10; National Park	31-Mar-09	14-Apr-11
ML	1175	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	IBIS	GRANTED	NC	REN DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 10; National Park	31-Mar-09	14-Apr-11
SECTION 10, 11 & 12 - ML RENEWED 14 APRIL 2011								
ML	1103	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	DUNWICH	GRANTED	GRANTED	REN SEC 10, 11,12; NW condition	31-Dec-09	31-Dec-19
ML	1117	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	ENTERPRISE	GRANTED	GRANTED	REN SEC 10, 11,12; Restricted mine path	31-Oct-07	31-Dec-19
ML	1118	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	DUNWICH	GRANTED	GRANTED	REN SEC 10, 11,12; NW condition	31-Jan-08	31-Dec-19
ML	1119	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	ENTERPRISE	GRANTED	GRANTED	REN SEC 10, 11,12; NW condition; National Park	31-Oct-08	31-Dec-19
ML	1120	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	ENTERPRISE	GRANTED	GRANTED	REN SEC 10, 11,12; NW condition	31-Oct-08	31-Dec-19
ML	1121	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	GORDON	GRANTED	GRANTED	REN SEC 10, 11,12; NW condition; National Park	31-Oct-08	31-Dec-19
ML	1122	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	YARRAMAN	GRANTED	GRANTED	REN SEC 10, 11,12; NW condition; National Park	31-Oct-08	31-Dec-15
ML	1124	ACI OPERATIONS PTY LTD	VANCE	GRANTED	GRANTED	REN SEC 10, 11,12; NW condition	30-Apr-09	31-Oct-25
ML	1129	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	ENTERPRISE	GRANTED	GRANTED	REN SEC 10, 11,12; NW condition; National Park	31-Oct-10	31-Dec-19
ML	1130	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	ENTERPRISE	GRANTED	GRANTED	REN SEC 10, 11,12; NW condition; National Park	31-Oct-10	31-Dec-19
SECTION 8 - TERM VARIED								
ML	1112	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	AMITY	GRANTED	GRANTED	TERM END 31/12/19 SEC 8	31-Oct-27	31-Dec-19
ML	1113	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	ENTERPRISE	GRANTED	GRANTED	TERM END 31/12/19 SEC 8; National Park	31-Oct-27	31-Dec-19
ML	1153	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	ENTERPRISE	GRANTED	GRANTED	TERM END 31/12/19 SEC 8; pipeline	31-Oct-26	31-Dec-19
SECTION 9 - TERM VARIED								
ML	1109	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	YARRAMAN	GRANTED	GRANTED	SEC 9 END 31/12/15	28-Feb-26	31-Dec-15
SECTION 12 - TERM VARIED								
ML	1140	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	Road access	GRANTED	GRANTED	TERM VARIED SEC 12 TO EXPIRE 31/12/19	30-Sep-13	31-Dec-19
ML	1163	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	ENTERPRISE	GRANTED	GRANTED	TERM VARIED SEC 12 TO EXPIRE 31/12/19; pipeline	31-May-19	31-Dec-19

ML	7064	ACI OPERATIONS PTY LTD	VANCE	GRANTED	GRANTED	TERM VARIED SEC 12 TO EXPIRE 31/10/25; NWC	31-May-11	31-Oct-25
SECTION 8 - EXCLUDED, NO CHANGE TO TERM								
ML	1105	STRADBROKE RUTILE PTY LTD	ENTERPRISE	GRANTED	GRANTED	Restricted mine path (mining to complete by 2019 despite 2021 ML expiry)	30-Nov-21	30-Nov-21
ML	1108	UNIMIN AUSTRALIA LIMITED	VANCE	GRANTED	GRANTED	EXCLUDED UNDER SEC 8, NO CHANGE	31-Oct-25	31-Oct-25
SECTION 13 - RENEWAL APPLICATIONS DEEMED ABANDONED ON 14 April 2011								
ML	7065	ACI OPERATIONS PTY LTD	VANCE	APPL	NC	APP DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 13	N/A	14-Apr-11
ML	7074	ACI OPERATIONS PTY LTD		APPL	NC	APP DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 13	N/A	14-Apr-11
ML	7194	ACI OPERATIONS PTY LTD	VANCE	APPL	NC	APP DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 13	N/A	14-Apr-11
ML	50135	ACI OPERATIONS PTY LTD		APPL	NC	APP DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 13	N/A	14-Apr-11
ML	50136	ACI OPERATIONS PTY LTD		APPL	NC	APP DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 13	N/A	14-Apr-11
ML	50166	ACI OPERATIONS PTY LTD		APPL	NC	APP DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 13	N/A	14-Apr-11
ML	50167	RIVERSIDE INDUSTRIAL SANDS PTY LTD		APPL	NC	APP DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 13	N/A	14-Apr-11
ML	50194	RIVERSIDE INDUSTRIAL SANDS PTY LTD		APPL	NC	APP DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 13	N/A	14-Apr-11
ML	50205	RIVERSIDE INDUSTRIAL SANDS PTY LTD		APPL	NC	APP DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 13	N/A	14-Apr-11
ML	50206	RIVERSIDE INDUSTRIAL SANDS PTY LTD		APPL	NC	APP DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 13	N/A	14-Apr-11
ML	50240	ACI OPERATIONS PTY LTD		APPL	NC	APP DEEMED WITHDRAWN SEC 13	N/A	14-Apr-11

ML = MINING LEASE

APPL = APPLICATION

NC= NON CURRENT

NW = NO WINNING OF MINERALS

REN = RENEWAL / RENEWED

Attachment 1 - Background to and current status of mining leases and mining activity on North Stradbroke Island

Background

Sand has been mined on North Stradbroke Island (NSI) since 1949. The current mining leases were initially granted to various companies between 1958 - 2001 and have since been renewed a number of times.

All current mines are owned and operated by Sibelco Australia Limited (Sibelco). Sibelco Australia Limited was previously Unimin in 2009 when it bought out CRL's share in NSI's sand mining operations. All remaining mining leases on NSI and the Environmental Authorities associated with those leases are held by Stradbroke Rutile Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Sibelco.

At the time of developing the *North Stradbroke Island Sustainability and Protection Act 2011* (NSIPS Act) the mining leases on NSI were in various states of currency, expiration, renewal and application for renewal.

The NSIPS Act affected 42 of the 44 mining leases on NSI by either:

- Removing the ability to renew (for those already expiring before 2019)
- Deeming their renewals 'withdrawn' (therefore expiring them on 14 April 2011)
- Renewing them, for a limited term (to 2019) with added conditions
- Aligning the dates for the term of the leases for a mine (Vance, to 2025)
- Varying the term of their renewal, or
- Deeming their renewal applications 'abandoned' on 14 April 2011.

At the time of assent, the NSIPS Act had the effect of reducing the number of leases to 21 leases. Two further leases expired in 2013.

The *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Act 2013* amended the NSIPS Act to affect four of the remaining 19 leases:

- ML 1105 and 1117 (Enterprise Mine) – removed the restricted mine path, allowed renewals until 2040 with a non-winning condition after 2035. The mining leases end 31 December 2040. A non-winning condition does not allow the extraction of minerals.
- ML 1120 (Enterprise Mine) – removed the non-winning condition, allowed renewals until 2040 with a non-winning condition after 2035. Mining lease ends 31 December 2040.
- ML1109 (Yarraman) – allowed renewal for five years until 31 December 2020 with a non-winning condition, to allow for rehabilitation.

On 31 December 2015 another mining lease (ML 1122) (part of Yarraman) expired.

Current status

Sibelco currently has 18 leases on the island however many of them have not been mined for some time.

Enterprise Mine is currently the only mine with active mineral extraction; dry and dredge mining occurs on ML 1117 and ML 1105. Under the current NSIPS Act mining can also occur on ML 1120. The Environmental Authority restricts Sibelco to mine in certain areas of these three mining leases. There are also a number of small mining leases for pipelines and access roads associated with the operation of this mine. ML1117 and ML1120 expire on 31 December 2019. ML1105 expires on 30 November 2021. However, under the current NSIPS Act these three leases can be renewed until 31 December 2040, with a non-winning condition for the last five years.

Yarraman mine saw active mineral extraction until August 2015 (mainly on ML 1109 with associated infrastructure on ML 1122). It was shut due to the depletion of the mineral sands and it is currently being decommissioned. ML 1109 nominally expired on the 31 December 2015. However, as allowed for under Section 11B of the NSIPS Act, Sibelco has applied to renew ML 1109 for a further five years. This renewal has not been decided. Sibelco and QYAC are in negotiations on access arrangements.

The Vance mine includes the leases ML 1108, ML 1124 and ML 7064. Prior to the original NSIPS Act in 2011, the expiry date for ML 1108 was 31 December 2025. The NSIPS Act renewed ML1124 and varied the term of ML7064 to align the expiry of those leases with the 2025 expiry date for ML1108. However mineral extraction is currently only permitted on ML 1108. Sibelco Australia Limited has indicated that mineral extraction on the lease area has ended. While extraction is not currently occurring, the mining lease and environmental authority allow for mining at this site until 2025, so the mining operator can choose to re-activate this area of the Vance Mine if it becomes economically viable to do so.

National Parks and mining leases

North Stradbroke Island is unique in that, due to the NSIPS Act, there are areas that have National Park and mining leases coexisting. That is, in some cases the underlying tenure for the leases is a gazetted National Park. All of the leases with national park tenure cannot be mined as the leases have a non-winning condition (except ML1113). A mining lease provides for exclusive access rights over the lease area and therefore almost half of the national park has access restricted due to the presence of mining leases.

Effect of the proposed North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015 (the Bill)

This Bill will affect the same four leases as the 2013 amendments:

- ML 1105– reinstates the restricted mine path, removes the ability to renew leases and reinstates a condition that winning of a mineral ends 31 December 2019. Mining lease ends 31 December 2021.
- ML 1120 and ML 1117 – reinstates the restricted mine path, removes the ability to renew leases. Mining lease ends 31 December 2019.
- ML1109 – ends this lease 12 months after commencement of the Act.

Please see Appendix 1 for further details and breakdown of the leases on NSI.

Attachment 2 - Overview of traditional owners and current status of indigenous land rights over North Stradbroke Island

The Quandamooka People are the traditional owners of the lands and waters of Moreton Bay, including North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah) and the bay islands.

The Quandamooka People comprise three clans. They are the Nughi of Moorgumpi (Moreton Island) and the Nunukul and Gorenpul of Minjerribah¹.

On 4 July 2011, the Quandamooka People were recognised by the Federal Court of Australia as having Native Title rights and interests in 54,408 hectares of land and waters on North Stradbroke Island: *Delaney on behalf of the Quandamooka People v State of Queensland* [2011] FCA 741 (Determination).

The determination arose from native applications that were lodged in 1995 (Quandamooka People #1) and 1999 (Quandamooka People #2) by the Quandamooka people for recognition of native title rights interest over land and waters in the area of Stradbroke Islands.

As part of the determination, Quandamooka People's native title rights² included:

- 2,264 hectares of Exclusive Possession lands; and
- 22,639 hectares of onshore areas, and over about 29,505 hectares of offshore areas of Non-Exclusive Possession land.

The determination included areas of national parks, reserves, unallocated State land and other leases. The Quandamooka people hold exclusive and non-exclusive native title rights that include: the right to live and be present on the area, conduct ceremonies, to maintain places of importance and areas of significance to, and to take, use, share and exchange traditional natural resources and seawater for any non-commercial purpose.

Following the determination on the 4th July 2011, the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) was established as the Registered Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) under the *Native Title Act 1993* to manage the recognised Native Title rights and interests of the Quandamooka people.

Currently 11,024 ha of non-exclusive native title lands are suppressed by mining leases on NSI. This equates to 40.5% of North Stradbroke Island and 48.7% of their determination. Further areas of their native title lands are inaccessible due to mining leases inhibiting access.

In 2014 QYAC launched a High Court case against the State of Queensland (B26/2014), alleging that the amendments made in 2013 to the *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011* (NSIPS Act) are inconsistent with the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) they signed with the State Government in 2011, and therefore inconsistent with the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993*. This would render the State legislation invalid by operation of s109 of the Constitution, which provides that in the event of an inconsistency between State and Commonwealth laws, Commonwealth law prevails. In late 2014 and early 2015 two initial hearings occurred. This was

¹ <http://www.qyac.net.au>

² National Native Title Tribunal, 2011

followed by written submissions from QYAC and the State as well as Attorney General's from the Commonwealth, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

Further information:

More information about QYAC is available on the QYAC website <http://www.qyac.net.au/> .

Further information regarding the Native Title consent determination can be found at www.atns.net.au or on the National Native Title Tribunal website that includes a map of the determination

areas <http://www.nntt.gov.au/Information%20Publications/Determination%20brochure%20%20-%20Quandamooka%20People%27s%204%20July%202011.pdf>.

The formal judgement handed down by the Federal Court can be found at www.austlii.edu.au .

Frequently Asked Questions concerning native title and North Stradbroke Island are available on the Redland City Council

website: http://www.redland.qld.gov.au/AboutRedlands/NorthStradbrokeIsland/Documents/NSI_Native_Title_fAQ_August_2011.pdf .

Attachment 3 - Chronology of legislative amendments and policy positions of successive governments

1949 - Mining commenced on North Stradbroke Island (NSI).

1958 – Mining Lease 1115, the first of the Enterprise Mine leases, was granted.

1981 – Blue Lake National Park gazetted on North Stradbroke Island.

1990 – On 8 May 1990 Mr Briskey, Member for Redlands under the Goss Labor Government, made his maiden speech in parliament, recognising the 20 000 year history of Aboriginal occupation of North Stradbroke Island and their strong link to the island, as well as noting he had had recent “discussions with the Environment Minister with respect to having approximately 50 per cent of the island proclaimed as national park”. (Hansard page 1151, 8 May 1990)

1995 - Quandamooka People #1 native title application lodged.

1995 – Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) negotiations between Redland City Council and the Quandamooka People commence.

1999 - Quandamooka People #2 native title application lodged by the Quandamooka people for recognition of native title rights interest over land and waters in the area of Stradbroke Islands.

2009 - The State advised it is prepared to agree to a consent determination provided an ILUA for the future use of all State land on the Island including the expansion of the national park can be agreed.

March 2009 – Labor (Bligh) Government returned at the Queensland State election.

June 2010 – The Bligh Government announces a vision for North Stradbroke Island with four main components:

- Creation of National Park over 80% of the island (75% by 2021)
- The cessation of all sand mining by 2027
- The resolution of Native Title through an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the Quandamooka People and
- The development of a strategy to move the island towards a sustainable economic future.

22 March 2011 - The North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Bill 2011 (NSIPS Bill) is introduced to Parliament. The NSIPS Bill provides a clear timetable to end all heavy sand mining on the island by 2019, with the closure of the large Enterprise mine 13 years ahead of schedule, and completely ending mining by 2025 in order to protect and restore the environmental values of the region. The legislation also provides a framework for indigenous joint management of the national park, which is a pre-requisite for further park gazettals.

The NSIPS Bill also introduces a restricted mine path at Enterprise Mine and end dates for the three active mines. In this Bill there was no ability to renew the mining leases and access for any rehabilitation remaining on expiry was intended to be facilitated by other mechanisms.

27 March 2011 – Stage 1 (5,240 hectares) Naree Budjong Djara National Park declared, representing 20 per cent of the Island.

April 2011 - The North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Bill is passed by the Queensland Parliament.

June 2011 - An Indigenous land use agreement (ILUA) between the State of Queensland, the Quandamooka People and QYAC was signed in June 2011 and registered on 8 December 2011. The confidential ILUA includes the details of the agreement between the State and the Quandamooka People about matters such as land to be transitioned to national park, land to be transferred to freehold land, access rights, and payment of royalties from mining on NSI.) The ILUA was ratified through the Quandamooka consent determinations.

4 July 2011 – The Quandamooka People were recognised by the Federal Court of Australia as having Native Title rights and interests in 54,408 hectares of land on North Stradbroke Island. The Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) was established as the Registered Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) under the *Native Title Act 1993* to manage the recognised Native Title rights and interests of the Quandamooka people.

4 July 2011 – Redland City Council signed an ILUA with the Quandamooka People of North Stradbroke Island following the historic Federal Court sitting on the Island.

June 2011-March 2012 – Bligh Government undertakes extensive public consultation and develops various documents to support the draft Economic Transition Strategy.

December 2011 – Stage 2 (13,875ha) is added to the existing Naree Budjong Djarra National Park, declared in March. Half of North Stradbroke Island is now national park. At this time the Bligh Government renewed its commitment to transfer a further 30% of North Stradbroke Island to national park status.

March 2012 – LNP (Newman) formed Government following the Queensland State election.

October 2013 - The North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013 (2013 Amendment Bill) is introduced into Parliament to amend the NSIPS Act to extend the time horizon and area of mining on NSI. The changes remove the restricted mine path and allow the mining company to renew the leases for active mineral extraction at Enterprise until 2035 and to renew the leases for Yarraman and Enterprise at the end of extraction for five years (Yarraman 2020, Enterprise 2014) for rehabilitation purposes.

November 2013 – The North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013 is passed by the Queensland Parliament.

June 2014 – Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) launch a High Court Challenge in relation to the 2013 Amendment Bill. QYAC allege that the amendments made in 2013 to the *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011* (NSIPS Act) are inconsistent with the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) they signed with the State Government in 2011, and therefore inconsistent with the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993*. This would render the State legislation invalid by operation of s109 of the Constitution, which provides that in the event of an inconsistency between State and Commonwealth laws, Commonwealth law prevails.

January 2015 - Labor (Palaszczuk) Government appointed following the Queensland State election on this date. Labor made the following government commitments in relation to NSI:

- Act immediately to repeal the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014 and return to the 2019 phase-out of sand mining on Stradbroke Island.
- Consider North Stradbroke Island in any future expansion of National Park estate.
- Consult closely and early with the Quandamooka people on any future decision relating to the management of mining leases on North Stradbroke Island.
- State budget 2015/16 committed \$20 Million over 5 years for the Economic Transition Strategy for NSI.

June 2015 – Minister Miles reconfirms the Palaszczuk Labor Government’s commitment to substantially phasing out sand mining in 2019.

October 2015 – Deputy Premier Trad again confirms 2019 end date for sand mining.

October 2015 - Mr Knuth, member for Dalrymple, introduces the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability (Renewal of Mining Leases) Amendment Bill 2015.

December 2015 – Minister Miles introduces The North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015 (the Bill) to Parliament, which implements the commitments made by the Government to return the NSIPS Act to its original intent and substantially end mining on NSI in 2019.

Ongoing - The validity of the *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Act 2013* is currently subject to challenge by QYAC in the High Court.

Attachment 4 - Consultation undertaken in the development of the Bill including details of stakeholders consulted, timing of consultation activities and results of consultation

Consultation on the policy intent of the Bill and the actions identified in the draft North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy was undertaken with a range of stakeholders, including the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC), Sibelco, Friends of Stradbroke Island (FOSI), and Straddie Chamber of Commerce. The results of consultation and a full list of stakeholders and consultation dates are provided in **Table 1**.

In addition, QYAC and Sibelco were consulted with a consultation version of the Bill and with a draft restricted mine path map (**Table 2**).

Results of consultation

QYAC supports the amendments contained in the Bill that return the *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011* (NSIPS Act) to its original intent. However, QYAC does not support the Yarraman Lease extension for any timeframe.

QYAC raised some concerns regarding the Mineral Resources Act (MR Act) authorisation powers and how they would be applied to NSI. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection intends to develop a guideline about the use of this power which should address many of QYAC's concerns.

Conservation groups with an interest in NSI, including Friends of Stradbroke Island and the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, support the amendments contained in the Bill that return the NSIPS Act to its original intent. In this respect, like QYAC, conservation groups do not support the Yarraman Lease extension for any timeframe, however these groups acknowledge it is essential that Sibelco continue to mitigate environmental impacts and rehabilitate mining sites in a timely fashion.

Conservation groups expressed support for the reintroduction of the Restricted Mine Path that provides a clear distinction between dredge and dry mining areas. However, conservation groups do not support any further expansion of the mine path beyond the area that is currently shown on the Restricted Mine Path map (**Attachment 7**).

Sibelco does not support the non-renewal of leases and, during consultation, tabled a proposal to continue mining on NSI until 2027 which included the company providing funding of up to \$20 million to assist with the Island's economic transition. Sibelco contend that stopping mining in 2019 does not give it enough time to plan for closure and shut down, including providing transitional employment opportunities, and it would like its exit from NSI to be seen as a positive one.

Sibelco expressed initial concern regarding the MR Act authorisation powers in that timely issue of this authorisation is imperative to enable certainty for planning for mine closure. Sibelco also noted that it has safety obligations under the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999* and that the MR Act authorisation must allow them to fulfil these obligations. This has been clarified in the Bill and explanatory notes.

Sibelco understands the concept of having a single Restricted Mine Path area but has identified some commercial issues with the current dry mining area and has consequently proposed some

changes to the mining area. The Bill includes provision for the mining company to seek an amendment of the Restricted Mine Path.

Redland City Council has expressed concerns regarding the 2019 end date for mining, and the need for adequate time for the transition from mining to deal with the social and economic consequences.

Straddie Chamber of Commerce shares this concern and has expressed the desire for sand mining to be extended to allow a longer transition timeframe. The Chamber is also concerned that the multiple changes in policy have affected business and investor confidence on the island.

Details and timing of consultation

Table 1: Consultation by Minister Miles and Departmental Officials on North Stradbroke Island Policy, Legislative Changes and to inform development of the draft Economic Transition Strategy

Consultation by Minister Miles and representatives from the Department of National Parks, Sports and Racing, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and the Department of State Development .

Company/Title/ Representing	Date	Documents and discussion
Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) CEO	28 January 2015	Letter from The Hon. Tim Mulherin MP on behalf of Labor committing to repeal the 2013 amendments
	24 April 2015 11-12 May 2015 23 June 2015 30 July 2015 14 August 2015 25 August 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government including discussion on renewal of mining leases
	23 June 2015	Strategy – 2011 and now QYAC 2015 issues paper Way forward Site visits
	30 July 2015	Progress on Economic Transition Strategy Discussion on priorities for short, medium and long-term funding Tourism investments Timelines for finalisation
	6 August 2015	Potential education and training actions

	18 September 2015	Feedback on draft strategy and action shortlist
	3 December 2015	Pre-introduction briefing on the Draft Bill by Minister Miles
Chair of QYAC, Chair of Minjerribah Camping	30 July 2015	Progress on Economic Transition Strategy Discussion on priorities for short, medium and long-term funding Tourism investments Timelines for finalisation
	6 August 2015	Potential education and training actions
QYAC Junobin Family Director	11 May 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
QYAC Junerboi Family Director, Elder	11 May 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
QYAC Endellie Family Director and Elder	11 May 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
Joint Management Coordinator	11 May 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
	23 June 2015	Strategy – 2011 and now QYAC 2015 issues paper Way forward Site visits
Cultural Heritage Coordinator	11 May 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
	23 June 2015	Strategy – 2011 and now QYAC 2015 issues paper Way forward Site visits
Minjerrinbah Moorgumpin Elders	11 May 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
NSI Aboriginal Housing	11 May 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
Yuli Burra Ba Medical Services	11 May 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
Salt Water Murriss Quandamooka Arts Group	11 May 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
Winnam Aboriginal Corporation	11 May 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government

Minjerribah Camping and its Aboriginal Staff	11 May 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
QPWS Quandamooka Rangers	11 May 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
Dunwich State Primary School Indigenous Liaison	11 May 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
Quandamooka Traditional Owners who are employees of Sibelco	12 May 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
Quandamooka Combined Organisations Forum	12 May 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
Independent Chair, QYAC Investment Committee	23 June 2015	Strategy – 2011 and now QYAC 2015 issues paper Way forward Site visits
	30 July 2015	Progress on Economic Transition Strategy Discussion on priorities for short, medium and long-term funding Tourism investments Timelines for finalisation
	6 August 2015	Potential education and training actions
	18 September 2015	Feedback on draft strategy and action shortlist
Consultant, Minjerribah Camping	30 July 2015	Progress on Economic Transition Strategy Discussion on priorities for short, medium and long-term funding Tourism investments Timelines for finalisation
	6 August 2015	Potential education and training actions
Sibelco Australia Limited	2 June 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
	23 June 2015	Further discussions on the government's intent
	30 June 2015	Sibelco's proposal document - mining to 2027
	31 July 2015	

	14 August 2015	Draft restricted mine path map
Redlands City Council	9 June 2015	Initiation – views on transition
	23 June 2015	Review of 2011 documents, RCC-proposed activities, way forward
	30 July 2015	Progress on Economic Transition Strategy Discussion on priorities for short, medium and long-term funding Tourism investments Timelines for finalisation
	1 September 2015	Powerpoint presentation about NSI economic transition strategy
	11 September 2015	List of potential actions Draft North Stradbroke Island Economic Transitions Strategy Framework Action Plan Next Steps
Straddie Chamber of Commerce (Stradbroke Ferries, Sibelco, Discover Stradbroke)	23 June 2015	Clear goal of what the Island economy will look like How we plan to get there Role of State in transition State's expectations of private sector
	14 July 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government
	30 July 2015	Progress on Economic Transition Strategy Discussion on priorities for short, medium and long-term funding Tourism investments Timelines for finalisation
	11 September 2015	List of potential actions Draft North Stradbroke Island Economic Transitions Strategy Framework Action Plan Next Steps
Friends of Stradbroke Island Association Inc	30 April 2015	Policy and legislative intent of the government

(operational matters on NSI)	13 July 2015	Meeting with senior executives from two divisions in the department to discuss Sibelco's mining activities, actual/potential environmental impacts of particular mines e.g. Amity oil spill, air pollution, Provided Sibelco's Environmental Authorities and Plans of Operations as requested.
	9 October 2015	Extensive letter from Minister Miles' Chief of Staff including an update on the legislation, responses to allegations of environmental impacts, monitoring and management responsibilities, general policy on the future of North Stradbroke Island and management of Moreton Bay.
	3 December 2015	Pre-introduction briefing on the Draft Bill by Minister Miles
Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland	28 January 2015	Letter from The Hon. Tim Mulherin MP on behalf of Labor committing to repeal the 2013 amendments
	26 October 2015	Discussion of potential environmental and cultural impacts of Enterprise mine and surrounding environments, including the impacts of dry and dredge mining.
	3 December 2015	Pre-introduction briefing on the Draft Bill by Minister Miles
Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)	3 December 2015	Pre-introduction briefing on the Draft Bill by Minister Miles
Wilderness Society	3 December 2015	Pre-introduction briefing on the Draft Bill by Minister Miles
National Parks Association of Queensland	3 December 2015	Pre-introduction briefing on the Draft Bill by Minister Miles

Table 2: Consultation by Department of Environment and Heritage Protection on the Draft Legislation and/or Draft Mine Path Map

Consultation by officers from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection that included presentation and discussion on confidential consultation drafts of the proposed North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015 and/or the proposed draft restricted mine path map.

Company	Date	Discussion, documents
QYAC CEO	24 August 2015	Intent of the Bill, possible Native Title implications
QYAC CEO QYAC legal counsel	9 September 2015	Draft Bill
QYAC CEO QYAC legal counsel	1 October 2015	Draft Bill and draft restricted mine path map
QYAC CEO QYAC legal counsel	16 November 2015	Draft Bill, draft restricted mine path map and discussion about Yarraman mining lease 1109
Sibelco Australia Limited	22 September 2015	Sent Sibelco the draft restricted mine path map by email
Sibelco Australia Limited	13 October 2015	Discussion on the draft restricted mine path map
Sibelco Australia Limited	15 October 2015	Met to discuss the Draft Bill and explanatory notes

Attachment 5 - Economic statistics for the North Stradbroke Island regional economy including key industries and employment

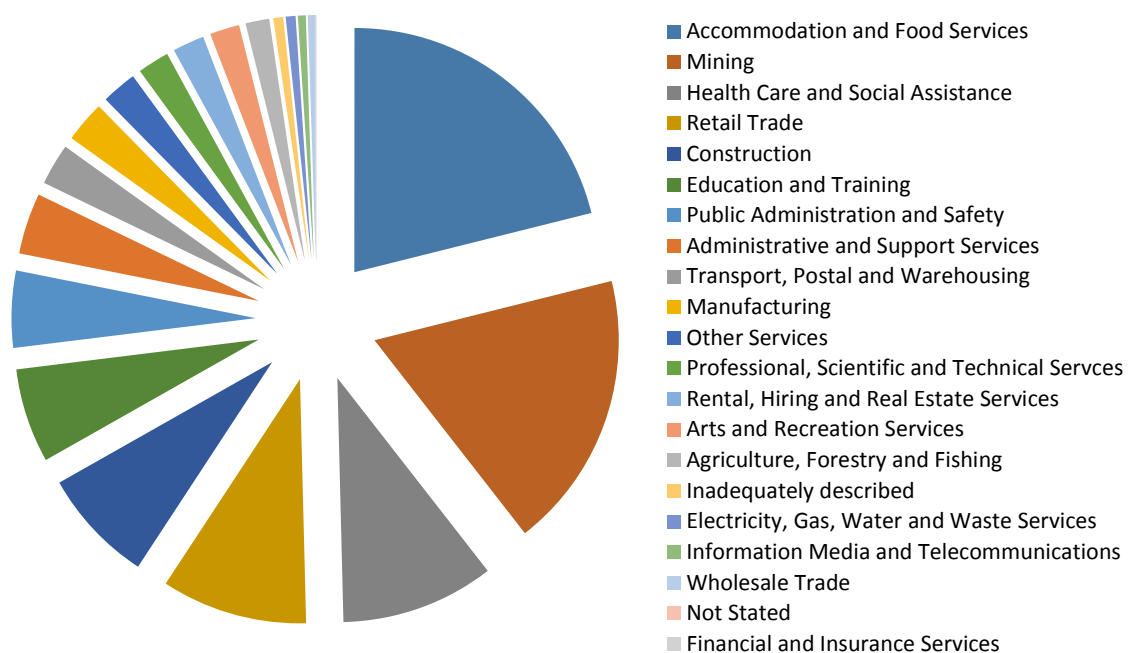
On North Stradbroke Island:

- around 850 residents (out of 2025) are employed
- 620 employed residents work in local jobs
- 230 employed residents travel to the mainland for work
- the local economy relies on six main industries:
 - accommodation and food services (20 per cent of employment)
 - mining (18 per cent of employment)
 - health care and social assistance (10 per cent of employment)
 - retail trade (10 per cent of employment)
 - construction (8 per cent of employment) and
 - education and training (6 per cent of employment).

Figure 1 shows the major industries and the percentage of employment by industry.

Figure 1. Employment by industry on North Stradbroke Island:

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing - 2011



The largest proportion of people, 44 per cent of the total NSI population, resides in Dunwich. The top employing industry for Dunwich residents is mining (23 per cent), followed by health care and social assistance (15 per cent).

The second largest residential area is Point Lookout, accounting for 33 per cent of the population. The largest employing industry for Point Lookout residents is accommodation and food services (24 per cent), followed by construction (12 per cent).

Information in Attachment 5 has been provided by the Department of State Development. For further detail please contact Danielle Ellem.

Amity Point, the smallest residential area, accounts for 17 per cent of the population. The largest employing industry for Amity Point is accommodation and food services (23 per cent), followed by transport, postal and warehousing (11 per cent).

North Stradbroke Island has around 180 local businesses. Of these:

- more than 70 per cent are directly or indirectly related to the tourism sector, including accommodation, retail, food and beverage, tours and attractions and general services
- around 12 per cent are trades related.

The labour market on NSI is quite mobile in working between the island and the mainland, with approximately 27 per cent of NSI residents travelling to the mainland for work, while around 20 per cent of individuals who work on NSI travel from the mainland.

Median weekly household incomes on NSI are lower than the Queensland median, at \$827 for NSI compared to \$1 235 for Queensland. The median weekly household income of \$718 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people on the island is lower than both the North Stradbroke Island and Queensland median.



Draft North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy



December 2015



Queensland
Government



Headland at Point Lookout

Cover image: Main Beach, Point Lookout

Foreword

North Stradbroke Island is an island paradise close to the heart of many Queenslanders. This stunning sand island—also known as Minjerribah to the Traditional Owners the Quandamooka people—is the perfect balance of nature, Indigenous culture and modern lifestyle with a vibrant, passionate community.

The island's economy is supported by several industries, including tourism and education. Since the 1940s, it has also been supported by sand mining. However, sand mining leases prevent public access to approximately 40 per cent of the island, 20 per cent of which is also national park. As with other regions before it, the time has now come to stop mining so it can be opened up for all Queenslanders and visitors to enjoy.



JACKIE TRAD MP

Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport,
Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government
and Planning and Minister for Trade



North Stradbroke Island is the only place in Queensland where an active mining lease exists over a national park, restricting the enjoyment of a public asset by Traditional Owners and all Queenslanders.

In 2010, the Labor Government put legislation in place and made a promise to the region's Quandamooka people—through a landmark Indigenous Land Use Agreement—to substantially end mining activities in the north Stradbroke region by 2019.

Now is the time to make good on this promise so all Queenslanders can enjoy what North Stradbroke Island has to offer. We have prepared amendments to the existing legislation to reinstate the original mining phase-out dates.



ANTHONY LYNHAM MP

Minister for State Development
and Minister for Natural Resources
and Mines



We have developed an exciting strategy, including a series of carefully considered actions, to ensure North Stradbroke Island's stability for future generations.

We are allocating \$20 million to build on the island's current capacity and economy over the next five years, and \$5 million for a Workers Assistance Scheme to help mine workers transition into new employment.

This is a long-term strategy, but we're starting now by keeping the promise we made. We look forward to working with the people of North Stradbroke Island to ensure a bright future for North Stradbroke Island.



STEVEN MILES MP

Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection
and Minister for National Parks and the Great
Barrier Reef



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Vision

To become Australia's most desirable island community, striking a balance between sustainable economic growth and protection of the island's unique environment and cultural heritage

Strategy

Increase economic activity and employment in sectors where North Stradbroke Island has a competitive advantage:



Sustainable tourism



Education and training



Local business

Executive summary

The Queensland Government is committed to phasing out sand mining on North Stradbroke Island by 2019 and expanding the island's existing industries to ensure a strong, sustainable economy for all who live and work there.

To deliver this commitment, the Queensland Government has developed a Draft North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy supported by 16 actions, which aim to:

- ▶ drive sustainable tourism
- ▶ expand education and training opportunities
- ▶ foster business development and growth.

The Queensland Government has allocated \$20 million to drive this strategy and facilitate stakeholder co-investment to deliver a sustainable economy. The strategy is further supported by an additional \$3.87 million in-kind Queensland Government contributions for identified actions and \$5 million to help mine workers pursue new employment opportunities.

The strategy presents a range of exciting future opportunities for North Stradbroke Island including:

- ▶ up to 151 direct and ongoing jobs
- ▶ ability to leverage \$40 million private sector and stakeholder co-investment
- ▶ growth in international and domestic tourism markets
- ▶ establishment of new adventure tourism operations
- ▶ new training and educational service offerings
- ▶ growth in existing local business services
- ▶ development of new industry sectors such as seafood and forestry and timber products.

The North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy is only part of the Queensland Government's broader plan to bring more opportunities to the region. This includes:

- ▶ the facilitation of the \$1.3 billion private investment in the Toondah Harbour redevelopment project, which has the potential to generate 1000 construction jobs and 500 jobs per year at completion

- ▶ over \$12 million in Queensland Government funding for Naree Budjong Djara National Park and structure planning for One Mile
- ▶ \$1.68 million in Queensland Government funding to work with the island's native title owners, the Quandamooka people, in relation to the landmark Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

Additionally, the Redland City Council's planning scheme includes future development of the housing, local services and facilities in the island's townships and identifies several sites around Dunwich Harbour as commercial industry zones, creating employment opportunities during construction and increased commercial activity.

Introduction

Our commitment

North Stradbroke Island is the second-largest sand island in the world. It boasts stunning natural features, a rich Indigenous culture, a community of more than 2000 residents and thousands of tourist visitors every year.

For more than 60 years, the island has been supported by sand mining, as well as tourism and education. However, future tourism development has been limited by sand mining activity on the island. To allow for the jobs of the future the time has now come to end sand mining. In 2010, the Queensland Government committed to phase out sand mining by 2019 and expand the island's other competitive industries to ensure a strong, sustainable economy for all who live and work there.

This will benefit the island but also the state as a whole, as local Queenslanders rediscover this piece of paradise right on their doorstep.

The Queensland Government has allocated \$20 million to start to expand the island's economy and capacity, and attract private investment and other new business opportunities. The Queensland Government has committed a further \$5 million to help mine workers transition into new employment and an additional \$3.87 million in in-kind contributions for identified actions and implementation.

The Queensland Government will work closely with the island's residents and workers to create more long-term employment opportunities that promote sustainable economic growth, and protect the island's natural environment, cultural heritage and community vision for the future.

Regional economies are always evolving, with unsustainable industries giving way to new opportunities. In the 1950's, Moreton Island's main industry was whale processing, which gave way to sand mining until they transitioned into eco-tourism in 1993. Now, Tangalooma Resort showcases all the island has to offer to many thousands of visitors every year.

Similarly the closure of Fraser Island's longstanding timber industry provided new opportunities. The island now boasts thriving businesses, including Kingfisher Bay Resort, and a strong economy based on tourism.

North Stradbroke Island can offer all this and more once sand mining is phased out by 2019. The following section outlines the Queensland Government's strategy for achieving this.

Our commitment

**\$20
million**

to implement actions
identified in the strategy

**\$5
million**

for a Workers Assistance Scheme
to help sand mining workers
transition to other employment

**\$3.87
million**

available in additional in-kind
Queensland Government support to
implement the economic transition strategy

Our strategy

Objective: To increase economic activity and employment in sectors where North Stradbroke Island already has a competitive advantage.

Long-term goal: For the Queensland Government's initial financial injection—and the resulting growth—to result in a flood of opportunities through private investment and organic growth. Private investors, local entrepreneurs, and existing businesses and community organisations will be inspired to continue the initial work.

Our approach: Balancing economic activity, protection of the island's natural environment and cultural heritage, and community aspirations.

This document identifies potential growth industries on the island that can provide more long-term employment for residents through a diverse and sustainable economy.

In developing this strategy, the Queensland Government has considered existing land use and tenure, physical and social infrastructure, and the desires and needs of the island's residents.

Additionally, the Queensland Government has identified opportunities to provide mine workers with employment following the cessation of mining. For example, redevelopment of Dunwich Harbour and township could provide construction and operation jobs for residents and mine workers. As could the Toondah Harbour revitalisation project on the mainland.

This is only part of a broader whole-of-government plan to bring more opportunities to the region.

These opportunities and the Queensland Government's \$20 million funding injection will then encourage investment from the private sector, other levels of government and community organisations, who will take this strategy and further develop it into something transformative for the island and its people.

The actions outlined here are wide-ranging and the Queensland Government's financial investment is only the start in achieving them. But the opportunities in terms of broader stakeholder and private sector co-investment will assure North Stradbroke Island has a strong and sustainable future.

Opportunities

151

direct and ongoing jobs driven through this strategy and predicted growth, including 50 through rehabilitation works

\$40
million

potential co-investment funding opportunities and potential to grow small business

\$1.3
billion

private investment in the Toondah Harbour redevelopment project

1000

potential construction jobs for the Toondah Harbour redevelopment and 500 jobs per year at completion

Workers Assistance Scheme

The \$5 million assistance scheme will support affected sand mining workers to transition to alternative employment through:

- ▶ job search support
- ▶ training, employment and relocation assistance
- ▶ housing assistance
- ▶ commuting subsidy
- ▶ income supplementation
- ▶ dislocation assistance.

This will be available for permanent workers and eligible casual workers. Assistance under the scheme is expected to be available for five years.

The scheme is intended to transition permanent workers affected by the cessation of sand mining to new jobs and careers. Central to the scheme will be the appointment of case managers to work one-on-one with affected workers, tailoring solutions based on individual skills and needs.

Consultation and feedback

During 2011, the Queensland Government consulted with island stakeholders to develop a three-part economic transition strategy: a situational analysis, an economic transition strategy and an action plan.

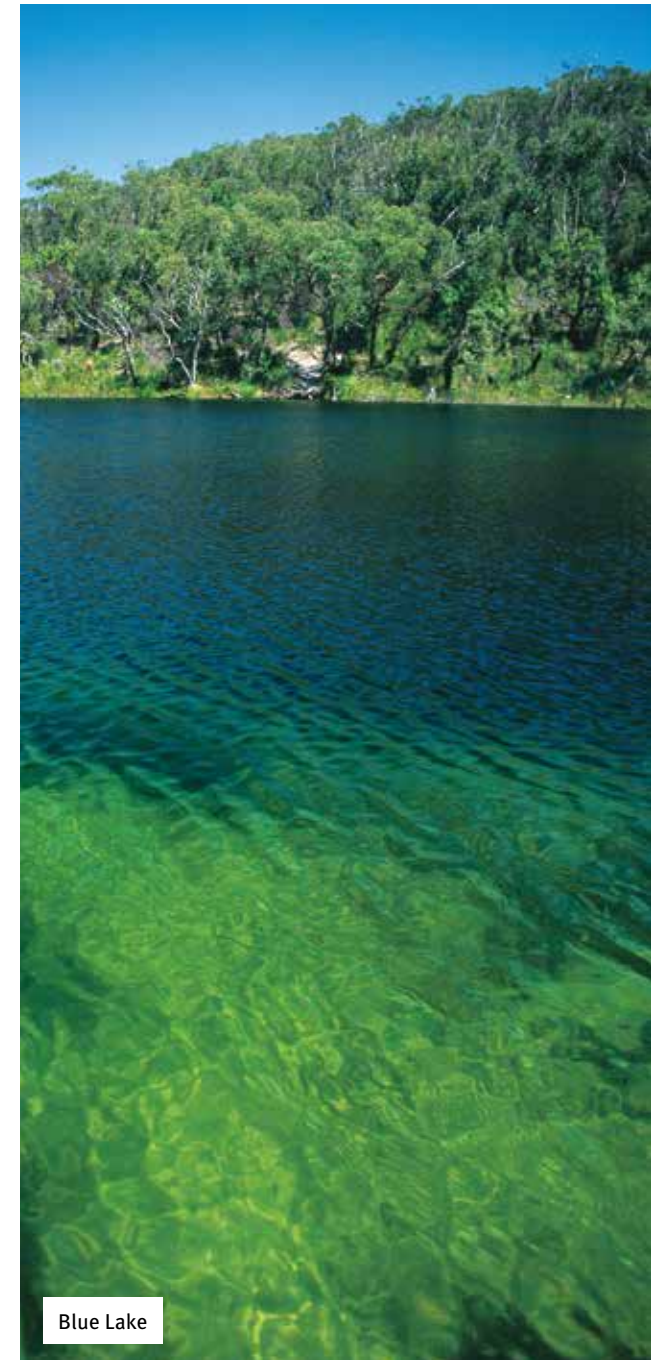
This strategy builds on these documents, accounting for advances on the island since 2011.

To develop this strategy, consultation has occurred with: the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) on behalf of the Quandamooka people; the Straddie Chamber of Commerce; the Redland City Council; Sibelco Australia; representatives of the workforce; and Walker Corporation Pty Ltd.

The Queensland Government has also considered:

- ▶ the Redland City Council's vision, outlined in several of its plans and strategies
- ▶ QYAC's publication, 'Through Native Title, to a Glad Tomorrow', which identifies opportunities to advance the economic and social advantage of the Quandamooka people.

However, the economic transition strategy is still subject to broader stakeholder consultation and agreement. Feedback is welcome on the actions outlined in this document. See the 'Have your say' section on how to submit your feedback.



Blue Lake



“Redland City Council is committed to working with the Queensland Government in supporting the North Stradbroke Island community and working to secure the best outcomes for its residents.

The transition from mining presents significant

challenges and to be successful requires ongoing collaboration between federal, state and local governments; Traditional Owners—the Quandamooka people, other island businesses and all community members.

There is no doubt that the island holds enormous untapped potential. Opportunities exist to expand the local tourism industry to further capitalise on the island’s stunning natural landscapes, marine access, welcoming community and rich Aboriginal culture and history. It also lends itself to further marine-based industries such as education and research.

For these opportunities to become a reality, job creation requires not only support through the North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy and Fund, but also business investment from those who share a vision for an environmentally and culturally sensitive economy in keeping with the island’s unique attributes.

I acknowledge that this is just the beginning of a long process and I applaud the work to date. I am committed to working with the Queensland Government to generate additional investment opportunities for North Stradbroke Island in the future.”

Mayor Karen Williams
Redland City Council



“North Stradbroke Island has the essentials of a perfect ecotourism destination—pristine beaches, native bush, rich Indigenous heritage and sought-after tourism experiences including, the many whale-watching viewing points on the

island. Add all of this to strong and viable access from the mainland and nearby international airports, and you have the potential for a world-class destination. In many places right around Australia and the world, tourism is a strong contributor to the economy and this is no different for North Stradbroke Island. As sand mining is phased out, tourism can be an important part of a sustainable economic future.”

Grant Hunt
Former CEO and Managing Director of Voyages and founder of Anthology, leading the development of unique tourism experiences including Longitude 131 at Uluru and Qualia at Hamilton Island

\$18.1 million

in Queensland Government funding has been budgeted over the next three years (2015-16 to 2017-18) for a range of existing services such as:

- ▶ educational and training programs
- ▶ social and community infrastructure
- ▶ fire safety and refurbishment of associated facilities
- ▶ maintenance of park facilities and equipment, access tracks and cultural heritage areas
- ▶ land planning, surveys and assessments on the island
- ▶ primary healthcare, and specialist and allied health services.

How we got here

Mineral sand mining has occurred on North Stradbroke Island since the late 1940's when Australian Consolidated Industries commenced operations.

Several companies have operated the mines over time. Today, Sibelco Australia is responsible for operating the sand mining sites on the island: Enterprise, Yarraman and Vance. The Yarraman site ceased operation in August 2015 and is subject to rehabilitation, while the Vance site has been non-operational since 2013.

In 2010, the Queensland Government released plans to phase out mining on the island and focus on building a stable, sustainable economy to support all who live and work there.

The subsequent *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011* provided for the:

- ▶ phasing out of all mining operations on North Stradbroke Island
- ▶ designation of the majority of the island as 'protected area' to be managed jointly by the Traditional Owners and Queensland Government.

An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the Traditional Owners—the Quandamooka people—committed the parties to working together to manage the national park, and create new opportunities for the community and the island.

In 2013, upon taking government, the Newman Government amended the legislation to extend the length of time and extent of mining possible on North Stradbroke Island to 2035. This amendment stalled transition efforts that were underway.

However, in 2015, the Queensland Government has recommitted to keeping its promise to the custodians of the land. It has prepared amendments to the existing legislation to reinstate the original mining phase-out dates.

These legislative amendments and the Economic Transition Strategy are the first steps in a new and exciting chapter in the island's long history.



Cylinder Headland

Vision and aspirations

A clear vision for the future of North Stradbroke Island has emerged through various consultation opportunities since 2011.

The vision

To become Australia's most desirable island community, striking a balance between sustainable economic growth and protection of the island's unique environment and cultural heritage.

Goals and aspirations

Shared goals for the island's future include:

- ▶ Expand on the island's existing capacity and thriving economy to make it an iconic destination.
- ▶ Make North Stradbroke Island Australia's most accessible and sustainable island community.
- ▶ Create fulfilling employment opportunities that support all communities on the island while enhancing its ecological and cultural values.
- ▶ Increase education and training opportunities to build on the community's existing skills and business strengths.
- ▶ Identify and develop further business opportunities for the island that incorporate Indigenous and other local culture and knowledge.
- ▶ Utilise the island's ecological values as a key attraction to residents and visitors.
- ▶ Export knowledge, culture, arts, goods and services that reflect the island's unique qualities.
- ▶ Create economic activity that connects different cultures and connects people with the environment.
- ▶ Create an accessible playground for Queensland families.



Understanding the island



Sunset, Amity Point jetty

To achieve the vision for North Stradbroke Island, it is important to truly understand the island as it is today.

The island is a perfect balance of cultural heritage, natural wonder, thriving community and modern economy. Any plans for the island's future must consider all these diverse aspects.

This section will examine these aspects.



“QYAC’s vision is for Minjerribah to be a global eco cultural tourism destination that showcases the island’s natural beauty and our 20,000 year old Quandamooka cultural heritage. The Economic Transition Strategy lays

a good foundation and framework for the Quandamooka People to generate business opportunities and employment, especially in eco cultural tourism, hospitality, construction and other sustainable industries.”

Cameron Costello
CEO

Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation

Cultural heritage

Quandamooka people

The Quandamooka people comprise the Nunukul, Gorenpul and Nughi clans, who live mainly on Moreton Island and North Stradbroke Island. They have lived in the Moreton Bay region for at least 20,000 years and call North Stradbroke Island, Minjerribah.

The Quandamooka people share their cultural heritage through storytelling, art and dance performances. Island visitors can attend cultural talks to get an understanding of the island's unique Aboriginal culture, as well as taste bush foods and visit Aboriginal sites. The Quandamooka people have an important connection to this land.

Native title

On 4 July 2011, the Federal Court of Australia made two native title consent determinations recognising the Quandamooka people's native title rights and interests over land and waters on and surrounding North Stradbroke Island, and some islands in Moreton Bay. The combined determination area is about 54,472 hectares, with native title determined to exist over about 54,408 hectares of land and waters, including areas of national parks, reserves, unallocated state land and other leases. This recognises their right to conduct traditional ceremonies, use traditional natural resources, conduct burial rites, teach about the physical and spiritual attributes of the area, and maintain places of importance and areas of significance (subject to state and federal laws).

The Queensland Government and the Quandamooka people then entered into an ILUA that establishes how the parties will manage and use Minjerribah in the future.

Working together

The ILUA provides opportunities for further economic development on North Stradbroke Island through the joint management of some protected areas, and income and revenue-sharing opportunities.

Government and industry could partner with the Quandamooka people to create or expand Indigenous tourism opportunities.

Ultimately, the experiences and wishes of the Quandamooka people are a vital part of the vision for North Stradbroke Island's future. The [Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation](#) manages cultural heritage across the Quandamooka estate and the Queensland Government will work closely with them to implement a plan for the island that protects this important heritage.

**\$1.68
million**

over two years (2015-16 to
2016-17) to implement the
Indigenous Land Use Agreement

Cultural heritage

Naree Budjong Djara National Park

Naree Budjong Djara National Park is jointly managed by the Quandamooka people and the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing.

The Traditional Owners and departmental officers work together to develop visitor management policies and operational procedures for the national park.

The Queensland Government is providing an additional:

**\$12.1
million**

over four years (2015-16 to 2018-19)
to jointly manage the island's
protected areas

\$275,000

in 2015-16 to develop infrastructure with
the Traditional Owners

Plans for Dunwich

Dunwich has great potential for development (see Theme 3, Action 1: Create a master plan for Dunwich). Attractions offered at Dunwich provide a unique tourism product on which to capitalise.

Better integration of public transport connections between Dunwich and the townships of Amity Point and Point Lookout could reduce the need for visitors to bring cars. This would provide the perfect destination for Brisbane residents looking for a stress-free getaway.

QYAC has identified plans for Dunwich Secondary Campus that include developing the Minjerribah Cultural Centre. This facility could be part of a larger Dunwich education and training precinct incorporating the existing Moreton Bay Research Station and Dunwich Primary School.

A master plan for a tourism, education and training precinct, incorporating Dunwich Harbour and the One Mile ferry, would ensure that all opportunities are considered and where appropriate, integrated into future land development.

One Mile structure plan

One Mile, a settlement just north of Dunwich, is home to many Indigenous residents.

The Queensland Government is working with QYAC and the Redland City Council to develop a structure plan for One Mile.

The structure plan will outline the best way to accommodate residential development at One Mile to meet the needs and aspirations of Indigenous residents, and to improve living conditions in the area.

By working closely with QYAC and the Redland City Council, this project will explore a range of innovative solutions to give the community access to safe, appropriate and affordable potable water, sewerage, power and road access.

This project will pave the way for a statutory planning instrument which will give the structure plan effect under Queensland's planning framework, and provide development opportunities for One Mile into the future.

\$450,000

for structure planning for the
One Mile settlement



Point Lookout



How the island is used

The island's 275.2 square kilometres of land comprises urban and conservation areas, as well as designated mining areas.

Each area of the island has its own history and uniqueness, which must be embraced and incorporated in any future plans.

Urban areas

North Stradbroke Island has three major townships: Dunwich, Amity Point and Point Lookout. Urban development on the island has been largely limited to these townships.

These areas have a mix of land uses, including low density residential, short-term tourism accommodation and local-scale commercial.

North Stradbroke Island is a one hour trip from Brisbane and a 90 minute trip from the Gold Coast. The water taxi from Cleveland is a short 25 minute trip to Dunwich.

Dunwich

As the main gateway to the island, Dunwich is the largest town with close to 900 residents. Most of the island's services are located here, including postal, medical and educational.

Dunwich has a strong marine industry, which includes ferry operations, and recreational boating and fishing.

Sibelco Australia, which operates the island's sand mines, also has major infrastructure in Dunwich and most of its employees live there.

The redevelopment of Dunwich will provide new employment opportunities and build on the already thriving industry located there.

Amity Point

Amity Point is a small seaside community with around 350 residents. The township has low density residential development and areas of open space.

While Amity Point does have some local community facilities, residents tend to travel to Dunwich or Point Lookout to access health and education services.

Point Lookout

Point Lookout is a popular tourist destination with around 680 residents. The township has a mix of retail, tourism accommodation and infrastructure, and residential land uses.

Any development at Point Lookout must meet specific codes to ensure that building designs preserve the area's scenic value and fragile physical features.

One Mile

While not a major township, One Mile—just north of Dunwich—is home to many Indigenous residents. The Queensland Government is working with QYAC to develop a structure plan for One Mile that will create opportunities for the area and its residents.



About the people



Resident profile

North Stradbroke Island has:

- ▶ around 2025 residents
- ▶ around 420 Indigenous residents—a larger-than-average proportion
- ▶ a high proportion of people aged 45 and older compared with the Queensland average
- ▶ a low proportion of people aged 5 to 44 compared with the Queensland average.

Figure 1 illustrates North Stradbroke Island's population by age.

What this means for the island

These figures show that there may be:

- ▶ fewer workforce participants over the next decade as the largest proportion of the population—those aged 55 to 64—start to retire
- ▶ increased demand for aged care-based industries and facilities, providing employment for carers, nursing staff, and other facility and service workers
- ▶ increased demand for local conveniences, medical and community facilities, and public transport.



Education profile

On North Stradbroke Island:

- ▶ there are many people with certificate-level education
- ▶ just over 40 per cent of residents have completed year 12 compared with more than 50 per cent in Queensland.

Figure 2 shows the level of educational attainment of North Stradbroke Island residents compared with Queensland.

What this means for the island

These figures suggest that:

- ▶ there are opportunities to increase education and training availability for residents
- ▶ there is potential to upskill the local labour force
- ▶ new employment and business opportunities could be created through the provision of education and training services
- ▶ there is an opportunity to improve education levels and, subsequently, increase workforce participation on the island.

The Queensland Government will help foster these opportunities with the \$5 million Workers Assistance Scheme to support mine workers with training and education to transition into alternative employment.

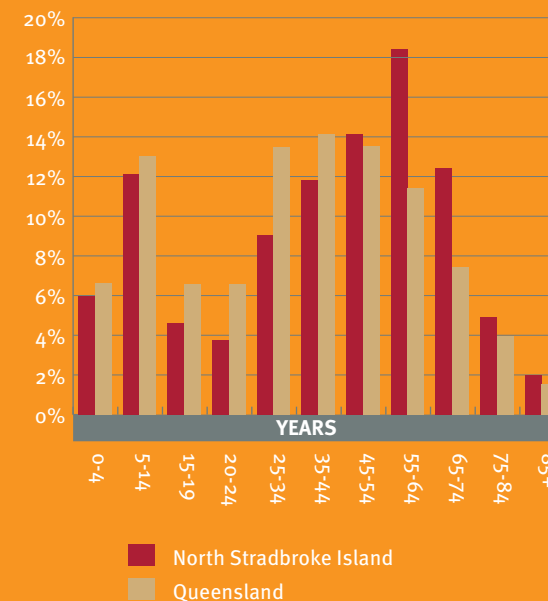


Figure 1: Population by age—North Stradbroke Island and Queensland comparison

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing – 2011

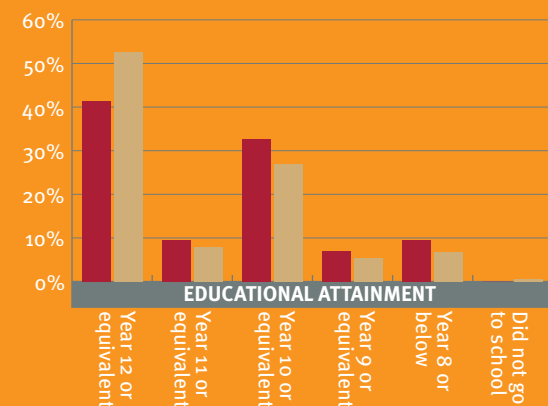


Figure 2: Educational attainment—North Stradbroke Island and Queensland comparison

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing – 2011

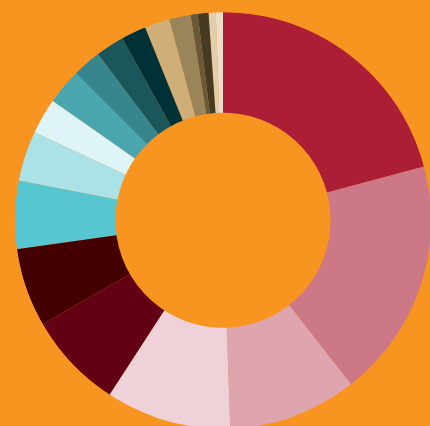


Figure 3: Employment by industry, North Stradbroke Island
Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing – 2011

Employment and business



Employment profile

On North Stradbroke Island:

- ▶ around 850 residents (out of 2025) are employed
- ▶ 620 employed residents work in local jobs
- ▶ 230 employed residents travel to the mainland for work
- ▶ 20 per cent of local workers are employed in accommodation and food services
- ▶ 18 per cent of local workers are employed in mining
- ▶ the local economy relies on six main industries.

Figure 3 shows the major industries and the percentage of employment by industry.



Business on the island

North Stradbroke Island has around 180 local businesses. Of these:

- ▶ more than 70 per cent are directly or indirectly related to the tourism sector, including accommodation, retail, food and beverage, tours and attractions and general services
- ▶ around 12 per cent are trades related.

What this means for employment and business on the island

These figures suggest opportunities to:

- ▶ expand existing sectors and emerging industries
- ▶ increase education and training opportunities (see the education profile on previous page).

This should increase the supply of local workers and the availability of relevant jobs.

It will also encourage the many tourism-related businesses on the island to expand and take up new ideas.

In the long term, stable employment will encourage more people to remain living and working on North Stradbroke Island.

Fraser Island: a success story

History

Fraser Island is a much-loved destination for local and international visitors.

The island contains rainforest, freshwater lakes, sand dunes and surf beaches that attract hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. This stunning natural wonder is supported by a strong, diverse and sustainable tourism industry.

For much of the last century, Fraser Island was also supported by two other industries: timber logging and sand mining.

However, over time, it became clear that both industries were causing environmental damage that, if allowed to continue, would be near impossible to undo.

Source¹: www.fido.org.au
Source²: www.npsr.qld.gov.au
Source³: www.environment.gov.au
Source⁴: www.kingfisherbay.com

Turning it around

Sand mining began in 1949 and continued until the Australian Government cancelled the mining licence in 1976. Timber logging occurred for longer.

Logging began in 1863, mainly for blackbutt timber, leaving the island's rainforest untouched. However, by the 1960's, 30 per cent of the logged timber was from rainforest; by the 1980's, it was more than 65 per cent.¹

In 1991, the Queensland Government ended logging on Fraser Island. The Queensland and Australian governments jointly funded a growth and development program to assist those affected by the industry closure.¹

The 60 people employed in logging transitioned into other industries.¹

A new chapter

Once sand mining and timber logging ended, the amount of national park increased from 140,000 to 220,000 hectares.² Fraser Island's already successful tourism industry boomed. Visitor numbers doubled in 15 years.³

Although the Kingfisher Bay Resort Group had been operating since the 1970's, it experienced massive growth after the end of timber logging, and now includes resorts, tours and a barge. Kingfisher Bay Resort is an award-winning eco-tourism facility.⁴

Today, the Group employs about 600 staff at Kingfisher Bay Resort, Eurong Beach Resort and other tourism-related businesses on the mainland.⁴

Fraser Island also offers adventure tourism with outdoor camping, four wheel driving, and lake and forest exploring.

It also provides educational tourism facilities for many university and school groups each year. Dilli Village—once a sand mining camp—comprises the Fraser Island Research and Learning Centre, cabins, camping grounds and an open classroom for lessons. Resources and activities have been developed to assist the groups on their trip.

Fraser Island has flourished since the end of logging and sand mining, and is now a favourite for local Queenslanders.

Strategy and action plan

Developing a strategy for growth

The cessation of sand mining in 2019 will give existing industry sectors the opportunity to grow and allow new industry sectors to emerge.

In determining the appropriate themes for action, the Queensland Government focused on industry sectors that:

- ▶ currently exist and have potential for growth
- ▶ are emerging and would evolve without government intervention
- ▶ capitalise on the iconic characteristics of North Stradbroke Island.

The Queensland Government's approach is to work with the island's competitive advantage, including in its existing tourism and education sectors, and ensure that local businesses are appropriately skilled and developed to take advantage of natural growth.

The Queensland Government has a deliberate and well-planned strategy for achieving this and a commitment of \$20 million to kick-start the actions recommended as part of it.

This funding injection is only a start in implementing this long-term strategy. The Queensland Government expects the expansion of the island's existing sectors to encourage further investment from the private sector, which will take up and progress many of these actions—and create more.

Multiple co-investment opportunities will emerge, leading to strong partnerships among local businesses, community organisations and various levels of government. This co-investment will leverage the Queensland Government's \$20 million funding to develop new ideas and strategies that will further transform the economy of North Stradbroke Island.



Mullet fishing at Flinders Beach

Themes for action

The Queensland Government has identified three themes for action:

- ▶ Diversify and expand the current tourism industry.
- ▶ Expand the education and training sector.
- ▶ Inspire business development and growth.

This is supported by the 'employment by industry' profile on page 17, which shows that education and training, and tourism (combining accommodation and food services, and retail trade), are already existing, profitable industries.

The actions are categorised as short-, medium- and long-term actions:

- ▶ short-term actions—investments that can occur in the next year to stimulate economic activity immediately
- ▶ medium-term actions—investments that can commence in two years and will open up sustainable economic and employment opportunities
- ▶ long-term actions—a further wave of growth from co-investment opportunities that will build on short- and medium-term actions. This will complete the initial transition phase and embed North Stradbroke Island as Australia's most accessible and sustainable island community.



Sunset over Moreton Bay



State contribution
\$13.48
million



Direct jobs created
43



Approximate ongoing
jobs created
40



Theme 1: Diversify and expand the current tourism industry

North Stradbroke Island's tourism industry is a thriving contributor to its economy.

Tourism is the island's largest employer, with 20 per cent of the island's workforce employed in accommodation and food services, at least 70 per cent of small businesses on the island are in this sector.

Approximately 800,000 people visit the Cleveland–Stradbroke region each year with an average total expenditure of \$111 million.¹

In 2014, there was a 5.5 per cent increase in day visitors and a 1.9 per cent increase in overnight domestic visitors, though the island currently captures only 4.4 per cent of the Brisbane market.¹

Additionally, since 2010, the number of international visitors from China has increased by 70.4 per cent each year.¹

Opportunities

These figures show that, although the island does have a thriving tourism sector, there are still many opportunities to expand and diversify current tourism offerings to create an iconic tourism destination for the state.

Possibly the greatest opportunity is the latent domestic market—visitors from the Brisbane region. As the island currently captures only 4.4 per cent of the Brisbane market, there is a major opportunity to create tourism products and services that will attract more of this market.

Increasing this market would have many positive impacts for the island, including expanding local businesses, encouraging new businesses to start, encouraging more private investment and providing new employment opportunities.

The growth in visitors from China also presents an opportunity to capitalise on the island's competitive advantages—nature-, adventure- and culture-based tourism.

Fraser Island has achieved exactly this with its successful Kingfisher Bay Resort. The Kingfisher Bay Resort Group currently employs around 600 staff who live and work on the island.²

During the construction of the resort, around 150 workers lived on site. At the peak of construction, more than 600 workers were on site. This is the kind of opportunity that is available on North Stradbroke Island.²

Challenges

Several challenges that could affect the long-term viability of the island's tourism industry must also be addressed:

- ▶ the critical need for private sector investment in new developments
- ▶ fluctuating seasonal visitor numbers
- ▶ infrastructure capacity during peak periods
- ▶ inconsistent quality of tourism product
- ▶ ease of access from tourist departure points, including Brisbane City.

Source ¹: *North Stradbroke Island: Tourism Project Prioritisation for the Economic Transition Plan*, August 2015, EC3 Consulting

Source ²: www.kingfisherbay.com

Actions

Seven actions for tourism development have been identified to expand the island's already thriving tourism industry to make North Stradbroke Island an iconic tourism destination.

To support each action, the Queensland Government has identified initiatives that will help:

- ▶ drive industry growth
- ▶ maintain quality tourism experiences
- ▶ strengthen the island's market appeal to visitors and private sector investors.

The state will contribute up to \$13.48 million to these proposed actions.

Action 1: Develop more nature and adventure-based activities

Almost half of the 800,000 visitors to the region engage in nature-based activities and a further 254,000 visitors engage in adventure-style activities.

Developing more facilities and infrastructure in national park, protected estates and urban areas could attract more and repeat visitors. This could include private nature-based ventures, including kayaking, whale watching and walking tours.

There are significant development opportunities—for the Quandamooka people in particular—within nature-based tourism ventures.

Private adventure-based ventures, such as cycling and quad bike tours or four wheel drive tours and training, could also be created or expanded.

Initiatives that support this action include:

- ▶ developing and improving recreational trails, such as pedestrian trails and cycle tracks
- ▶ developing a strategy for expanding national parks and other protected areas and transfer expired mining leases in stages, with funded joint-management arrangements.

Action 2: Improve existing built infrastructure and facilities and develop boutique accommodation

The existing caravan and camping facilities are an important tourism asset to support affordable beach holidays for families.

The Straddie Camping venture has enhanced these facilities; however more investment could increase visitor numbers and their length of stay.

Overnight 'glamping' is an increasing visitor trend. The market is growing for luxury, boutique accommodation experiences associated with cultural tours, local produce and food tours, and involvement in conservation projects.

This may convert day-trippers into overnight visitors and attract more visitors from Brisbane who are looking for a comfortable and beautiful location away from the city but still close to home.

Improved ferry access to the island from Toondah Harbour and Brisbane, supported by an increase in international tourism into Brisbane will also increase demand for the development of boutique eco-tourism and resort accommodation.

Initiatives that support this action include:

- ▶ developing camping infrastructure, in partnership with Straddie Camping, to improve existing facilities such as amenities, cabins and road access
- ▶ conducting a Tourism Investor Summit to attract private investment to the island, particularly in boutique accommodation. This includes:
 - an investment demand study to identify the level of demand for eco-tourism and resort accommodation associated with expected increased levels of international tourists into Brisbane and South East Queensland supported by better access to and from the island
 - an expression of interest to gauge interest in developing accommodation on the island
- ▶ a planning study which identifies areas and sites suitable for development of eco-tourism and resort accommodation including current mining sites.

Action 3: Create marketing campaigns and program of events

It is vital to increase awareness of North Stradbroke Island in interstate and international markets, but particularly to increase visitors from South East Queensland.

A coordinated and creative marketing and events program will entice people to visit North Stradbroke Island. The campaign needs to highlight the island's distinctive cultural and environmental assets.

Collaboration between the island's tourism industry and the Quandamooka people will be central to a successful campaign, as the heritage of Indigenous people is a point of difference. This could also provide employment for local Indigenous people.

Initiatives that support this action include:

- ▶ conducting marketing campaigns to increase awareness of North Stradbroke Island and increase local, interstate and international visitors
- ▶ creating an events program to increase visitor numbers in the tourism low season (February to August).

Action 4: Create more cultural tourism opportunities

North Stradbroke Island could become a place to connect with and learn about its natural and cultural history. Cultural tourism, particularly Indigenous cultural tourism, is a key motivator for the international market.

Initiatives that support this action include:

- ▶ progressing the Minjerribah Cultural Centre project and promoting the centre as a centrepiece for cultural tourism and education on the island
- ▶ growing and promoting the Quandamooka Festival as a unique cultural festival, particularly to the local Brisbane market, to increase attendance
- ▶ constructing an observation platform near Point Lookout with interpretative signage, primarily for watching marine species like whales and dolphins
- ▶ granting an exclusive whale-watching permit to the Quandamooka people to increase Indigenous tourism business opportunities and complement their other whale-related tourism ventures
- ▶ constructing a world-class whale interpretation facility, including a high quality natural museum with audio-visual facilities.

Action 5: Enhance the visitor experience

Visitor information is important for attracting new visitors and ensuring that visitors return. Gateway, locational and interpretive signage can showcase the island's assets, and educate visitors about the unique cultural and environmental values.

This builds on work done by Straddie Chamber of Commerce to update the existing website and develop a new mobile-friendly website.

Initiatives that support this action include:

- ▶ providing locational and interpretative signage at key locations on the island, including a Quandamooka-designed entrance statement
- ▶ implementing a six-year visitor research program on the island to better understand the market and its needs, including advertising awareness tracking.

Action 6: Unlocking Peel Island

Peel Island—Teerk Roo Ra National Park—is located four kilometres east of Cleveland.

The island has significant cultural heritage values and natural conservation values, and is one of the few Moreton Bay Islands with a fringing reef.

Peel Island is perfectly placed to attract nature-based visitors. Currently, there is a lack of access to the island. The development of a jetty has the potential to attract private investment in trails and snorkelling-based tourism.

A major initiative to support this action involves:

- ▶ construction of a jetty on Peel Island.

Action 7: Conduct a feasibility study into a Brisbane CBD–Dunwich ferry service

The current Brisbane market for visitors to the island presents an opportunity to operate a ferry service to and from Brisbane directly into Dunwich on North Stradbroke Island.

Access is a vital component in tourism development. Once increased visitors are attracted to the island, there needs to be a way to get them there and back comfortably, easily and quickly.

Developments like Queen's Wharf will increase international tourist numbers and may also attract local visitors from Brisbane. So this ferry service would ensure ease-of-access for a resulting increase in visitors to the island.

A Brisbane–Dunwich ferry service would give North Stradbroke Island direct access to the tourism market in Brisbane (around 300 trips per year), increasing the number of visitors per year and the average visitor nights.

However, a study would be necessary to investigate the market for this service and any potential impact on other ferry services to establish its viability.

A major initiative to support this action involves:

- ▶ conducting a feasibility study to establish the viability of a Brisbane CBD–Dunwich ferry service.

Whale watching priority invitation

The Queensland Government has provided a priority invitation to the QYAC for whale-watching tours.

QYAC have had a long-standing interest in taking up the third whale-watching authority available for the area and received in-principle support from the Queensland Government in 2012.

Whale-watching is now more viable since the industry started in the 1980s, as the humpback whale population has grown in that time from a few thousand to more than 20,000 passing the east coast each year.

The tours will be part of a tourism package including land-based infrastructure and activities, including a whale interpretive centre at Point Lookout that will display a whole whale skeleton.



“The revitalised Howard Smith Wharves provides the perfect front door to connect Brisbane to Stradbroke Island and transition its economy to a greater tourism focus which in-turn will generate long term economic benefits and jobs.”

Luke Fraser
Development Director
Howard Smith Wharves



“As the CEO of Carnival Australia, the local arm of the world’s largest cruise business, I know how important tourism is right around the world. In this job I’ve seen

firsthand what tourism offers in terms of economic opportunity. Brisbane is home to me and I grew up holidaying on North Stradbroke Island, or ‘Straddie’ as the locals know it. Straddie has huge potential from a tourism perspective, including opportunity for local jobs and opportunities for small business.”

Ann Sherry AO
Chief Executive Officer
Carnival Australia



State contribution

**\$5.2
million**



Direct jobs created

6



Theme 2: Expand the education and training sector

Education and training is currently a relatively small sector on the island, employing around 6 per cent of island residents.

However, educational tourism is a growing market in the Cleveland–Stradbroke region with 8500 visitors and 13,500 visitor nights, with an average stay of 1.6 nights. Additionally, 5.7 per cent of international visitors engage in education experiences while in the region.

Opportunities

With the visitor figures in mind, there is potential to:

- ▶ develop new learning products based on the island's unique assets and apply them to school camps and corporate retreats to attract more visitors
- ▶ offset the seasonal nature of tourism sector employment by encouraging education-related visitors in the tourism low season (February to August)
- ▶ create more jobs through school camps and fields studies, but also by leveraging existing tertiary research facilities like the Moreton Bay Research Station
- ▶ increase education and training opportunities for residents to create a higher skilled workforce, with greater flexibility and capacity to adjust to changing economic circumstances
- ▶ increase teaching spaces and facilities for visiting students.

Challenges

The challenges for developing education and training on the island include:

- ▶ access to transport services
- ▶ limited library and computer facilities
- ▶ lack of ongoing support for adult learners.

Actions

Six actions have been identified to develop skills and improve local training for residents, and to establish education as a source of income and employment.

The state will contribute up to \$5.2 million to these proposed actions. These actions will benefit the whole community in addition to the \$5 million Workers Assistance Scheme for mine workers.

Action 1: Develop new education and training products

There are several opportunities to develop education and training products for the island that will increase visitor numbers.

Providing new or extra materials and products will also increase the total visitor spend.

Initiatives that support this action include:

- ▶ establishing a Centre for Island Learning to:
 - develop new island-related education and training materials for primary and secondary levels
 - organise practical research about social and cultural issues, and scientific and environmental issues
 - research possibilities for intensive and immersion studies that attract fee-paying students
- ▶ expanding the Indigenous land and sea ranger program on the island.

Action 2: Create a service to administer and coordinate learning activities

Coordination of all the education and training products on the island—especially as new ones are created as part of this strategy—would help residents looking for appropriate education and training, and administer the island’s physical and virtual learning spaces.

Initiatives to support this action include:

- ▶ creating a service such as an education exchange to administer and coordinate all the education and training products on the island. An education exchange would provide residents with:
 - information, support and mentoring
 - physical and virtual learning spaces on the island
 - access to tertiary education
 - an information service on career course choice, tertiary study, financial issues, advanced standing, recognition of prior learning and education administration.

▶ It would also:

- act as a broker between training organisations and community or business in arranging training
- promote the island for education activities such as school field work, English language and university courses
- support QYAC and the tertiary education sector to:
 - establish the feasibility of developing Indigenous-related courses
 - consider the protocols needed to establish and manage these courses
- provide information on post-secondary education and training with information sessions and career counselling.

Action 3: Improve education and training facilities

Improving the island's physical education and training facilities will encourage a broader range of students, particularly secondary, tertiary and adult students.

Delivering training courses at these improved facilities would reduce student travel costs and time, and provide local employment.

A major initiative to support this action involves:

- ▶ refurbishing the existing Dunwich Secondary Campus to provide a hub for education and training on the island, including a modern resource and information centre.

Action 4: Expand market for school camps, field studies and tertiary research

The island is already a destination for school camps, field studies and tertiary research. By expanding this existing market, it can increase visitor numbers and even attract a broader range of visitors.

Other priority actions outlined in this strategy will benefit here, including developing new learning products, increasing nature-based recreation and cultural education opportunities, and creating high-quality tourism accommodation and facilities.

A major initiative to support this action involves:

- ▶ researching new opportunities and potential barriers to expanding the market for school camps, field studies and tertiary research.

Action 5: Improve public transport options

The availability and cost of existing transport creates barriers to study and difficulties for visitors without cars.

Possible changes to public transport must be assessed to improve access and reduce travel costs.

A major initiative to support this action involves:

- ▶ investigating improvements to the island's public transport options, including integration to TransLink.





South Gorge



State contribution

**\$4
million**



Direct jobs created

5



Approximate ongoing
jobs created

7



Theme 3: Inspire business development and growth

Currently, 180 local businesses provide just over 80 per cent of jobs on the island. Most are small businesses employing a small number of people.

More than 70 per cent of local businesses are directly or indirectly related to the tourism sector, including accommodation, retail, food and beverage, tours and attractions, and general services. Around 12 per cent are trades related.

North Stradbroke Island needs development that supports diversity and resilience. Success is more likely to come from initiatives that emerge from the island business community itself once they experience business success.

QYAC and Indigenous businesses, such as Straddie Camping, are continuing to grow. QYAC wants to continue to grow existing businesses and further invest in the island.

Some residents have expressed interest in developing businesses in seafood harvesting, fish processing and marketing, forestry and timber products, and traditional medicine.

It is important to draw on existing opportunities in tourism, education and training, and other sectors like service industries to help generate economic activity and employment growth.

The island may attract private sector investment through existing business owners expanding their operations or new investors identifying an opportunity.

Opportunities

Many opportunities are emerging that will create additional economic activity, and encourage business creation and expansion, including:

- ▶ development on the island to create construction jobs for locals and bring workers to the island, creating additional economic activity
- ▶ the Toondah Harbour revitalisation project on the mainland, which will create jobs for locals
- ▶ development of Dunwich as a day destination and expansion of aged care facilities to increase employment in various sectors
- ▶ a one-to-one mentoring program to help local business people and entrepreneurs develop their ideas into profitable businesses.

Dunwich Harbour redevelopment

In parallel with this economic transition strategy, the Redland City Council is implementing initiatives from its own planning scheme, which includes future development on North Stradbroke Island. The scheme identifies several sites around Dunwich Harbour as commercial industry zones.

Some of these sites are currently used by Sibelco for sand mining operations. Once sand mining ends in 2019, there is an opportunity to incorporate these sites as part of a broader redevelopment of Dunwich Harbour.

As the gateway to North Stradbroke Island, Dunwich Harbour could support various land uses. The redevelopment of Toondah Harbour could attract more visitors to the island, so Dunwich Harbour must be able to capitalise on economic opportunities as they arise.

This would require partnerships with the private sector, but would increase local investment, economic activity and job creation.

A master planning process would consider the development of appropriate transport services and amenities, and complementary tourism services and accommodation.

Toondah Harbour revitalisation project

The Toondah Harbour revitalisation project has the potential to transform the gateway to Moreton Bay and North Stradbroke Island, supporting more ongoing jobs and business opportunities for locals.

This \$1.3 billion project will create more than 1000 jobs during construction and an estimated 500 jobs a year post-construction.

The project will deliver a world-class ferry terminal and marina, waterfront retail and commercial space, apartments and public parks on a 67 hectare site at Cleveland.

The Toondah Harbour revitalisation project is expected to create additional jobs for residents on North Stradbroke Island, particularly in the construction phase, which coincides with the end of sand mining.



“Toondah Harbour is the gateway to Moreton Bay and North Stradbroke Island and all the natural, cultural and recreational attractions these iconic places offer. We expect that a revitalised Toondah Harbour will play a meaningful role in supporting post mining opportunities such as an island and bay-based tourism initiatives. We envisage excited tourists embarking for a whale watching tour from the harbour or enjoying a meal or a coffee in one of the signature restaurants before catching the ferry to Straddie. We’ll ensure that visitors heading to the island or taking to the bay have a first class experience on the mainland.

We also acknowledge that, as one of the largest construction projects in the Redlands for a generation, there’s an opportunity to assist island residents who are currently employed in the sand mining sector to develop new skills. We plan to directly support the economic transition strategy for North Stradbroke Island by working with the Queensland Government and Construction Skills Queensland to develop a construction training program for those Stradbroke residents”.

Peter Saba
General Manager - Queensland
Walker Corporation Pty Ltd

Actions

Four actions have been identified to develop local businesses on the island.

The state will contribute up to \$4 million to these proposed actions.

Action 1: Create a master plan for Dunwich

Dunwich is the entry point to the island, home to most residents and mining workforce, and host to attractions such as the historic cemetery, museum, Aboriginal middens and the annual Quandamooka Festival.

Initiatives to support this action include:

- ▶ conducting master planning to develop a day visitor precinct for Dunwich that offers tourism experiences for nature-, adventure- and education-based visitors, including:
 - improved signage and walking trails connecting significant areas
 - better integrated public transport connections between Dunwich and the townships, and reduce car numbers and expense
 - development of the Minjerribah Cultural Centre as part of a large education and training precinct.

Action 2: Expand existing aged care facilities

On North Stradbroke Island, the proportion of people aged 45 or over is significantly higher than the Queensland average, creating an aging population.

This presents an opportunity to expand current facilities to accommodate this and provide job opportunities in this field.

A major initiative to support this action involves:

- ▶ investigating the expansion of the existing aged care facilities on the island to:
 - double the existing capacity
 - create employment opportunities in the health care sector and the supply chain (service and maintenance).

Action 3: Deliver training and support programs to build local business capacity

Helping operators who deliver a quality service by identifying new ways to create value will promote a strong and sustainable industry.

Other state and federal government programs may be available to help local business development, including Indigenous businesses. Information on these programs will be made available to the island community.

An initiative to support this action involves:

- ▶ implementing an operator training and capacity-building program for existing businesses.

Action 4: Establish an Indigenous Business Development Fund

There are many opportunities for new business enterprises on North Stradbroke Island.

Increasing the number of small business ventures that deliver high quality products and services will promote strong and sustainable industries.

This fund will be set up to support Quandamooka business start-ups and joint ventures. A number of different business ventures have already had preliminary analysis undertaken, such as QYAC working with CSIRO on a new aquaculture industry at Amity Point. With additional resources it is envisaged that QYAC will be able to work with other organisations to develop new ecological sustainable industries on North Stradbroke Island.

An initiative to support this action involves:

- ▶ establishing an Indigenous Business Development Fund to investigate new business opportunities for North Stradbroke Island.

Redland's development focus

In parallel with this economic transition strategy, the Redland City Council is implementing initiatives from its own planning scheme (RPS 2006 v7). This scheme includes future development on North Stradbroke Island.

Like the Queensland Government, the Redland City Council sees the potential to grow the island's already thriving tourism industry. Additionally, the council is committed to encouraging growth which is of an appropriate scale and density, that balances liveable communities, economic activity and protection for the natural environment.

The Redland City Council's planning scheme recognises that safe, efficient and effective infrastructure is essential to ensure that North Stradbroke Island has the capacity to service future development.

The scheme flags future development of housing, local services and facilities in the island's three main townships: Dunwich, Amity Point and Point Lookout. Providing infrastructure in these populated areas will ensure the maximum number of users will benefit.

Development within these townships could create additional employment opportunities during construction and increase commercial activity.

Summary of initiatives

Diversify and expand the current tourism industry

Short-term initiatives

- Develop a strategy for expanding national parks and other protected areas and transfer expired mining leases in stages, with funded joint management arrangements.
- Undertake a planning study which identifies areas and sites suitable for development of eco-tourism and resort accommodation including current mining sites.
- Conduct marketing campaigns to increase awareness of North Stradbroke Island and increase local, interstate and international visitors.
- Create an events program to increase visitor numbers in the tourism low season (February to August).
- Progress the Minjerribah Cultural Centre project and promote the centre as a centerpiece for cultural tourism and education on the island.
- Grow and promote the Quandamooka Festival as a unique cultural festival, particularly to the local Brisbane market, to increase attendance.
- Provide locational and interpretative signage at key locations on the island, including a Quandamooka-designed entrance statement.
- Implement a six-year visitor research program on the island to better understand the market and its needs.
- Conduct a feasibility study to establish the viability of a Brisbane CBD–Dunwich ferry service.

Medium-term initiatives

- Develop and improve recreational trails on the island, such as pedestrian trails and cycle tracks.
- Develop camping infrastructure, in partnership with Straddie Camping, to improve existing facilities such as amenities, cabins and road access.
- Conduct a Tourism Investor Summit to attract private investment to the island, particularly in boutique accommodation.
- Construct an observation platform near Point Lookout with interpretative signage, primarily for watching marine species like whales and dolphins.
- Grant an exclusive whale-watching permit to the Quandamooka people to increase Indigenous tourism business opportunities and complement their other whale-related tourism ventures.
- Construct a jetty on Peel Island.

Long-term initiatives

- Construct a world-class whale interpretation facility, including a high quality natural museum with audio-visual facilities.

Expand the education and training sector

Short-term initiatives
Research new opportunities and potential barriers to expanding the market for school camps, field studies and tertiary research.
Investigate improving the island's public transport options, including integration into TransLink.
Develop new education and training products through a Centre for Island Learning.
Create a service, such as an 'education exchange' to administer and coordinate all the education and training products on the island.
Medium-term initiatives
Refurbish the existing Dunwich Secondary Campus to provide a hub for education and training on the island, including a modern resource and information centre.
Expand the Indigenous land and sea ranger program on the island.
Expand the Indigenous land and sea ranger program on North Stradbroke Island.

Inspire business development and growth

Short-term initiatives
Implement an operator training and capacity-building program for existing businesses.
Medium-term initiatives
Conduct master planning to develop a day visitor precinct for Dunwich that offers tourism experiences for nature, adventure and education-based visitors.
Establish an Indigenous Business Development Fund to investigate new business opportunities for North Stradbroke Island.
Long-term initiatives
Investigate the expansion of the existing aged care facilities on the island to double the existing capacity and create opportunities for employment in the aged care field.

Co-investment opportunities

It is important to note that the Queensland Government funding injection is only a start in progressing this expansive, long-term strategy.

It is expected that co-investment opportunities will emerge as the strategy is implemented. The resulting growth will be a catalyst for private sector investors to create partnerships with local businesses and organisations, or create something entirely new, to continue the initial work.



Diversify and expand the current tourism industry

- ▶ New adventure tourism operations, such as cycling, four wheel driving, bush walking and water-based activities.
- ▶ Private investment in boutique eco-tourism accommodation, such as ‘glamping’ and resort facilities.
- ▶ Scenic tours of cultural heritage and iconic natural features.
- ▶ Promotion of new and existing community and cultural events and attractions.
- ▶ New hospitality, retail and accommodation services to meet diverse visitor markets.



Expand the education and training sector

- ▶ Educational tours focusing on the natural environment and Indigenous history.
- ▶ Training and educational support and service offerings.
- ▶ Youth camping and adventure learning programs.



Inspire business development and growth

- ▶ Expansion of existing local business offerings and services that cater to new visitor markets.
- ▶ Investment in construction, trade and maintenance sectors to support growing tourism operations.
- ▶ Aged care and health services to support an aging population.
- ▶ New industry sectors focusing on seafood, forestry and timber products, and traditional medicines.

Implementing the strategy

Additional funding

In addition to the \$20 million allocated to the economic transition strategy, the Queensland Government is providing \$3.87 million to implement and coordinate the strategy. This funding is being provided by a number of agencies and will go towards implementation of a number of specific actions in the strategy.

These additional funds will also provide:

- ▶ a committee to guide the strategy implementation. The committee will be formed after public consultation and agreement on priority actions. It will comprise representatives of Redland City Council, QYAC and Straddie Chamber of Commerce at a minimum

**\$1.19
million**

in-kind government contribution
to coordinate and implement
the strategy's actions

- ▶ a senior officer to coordinate strategy implementation for five years. The coordinator will also manage the governance committee
- ▶ offices on North Stradbroke Island and in Cleveland to ensure close working relationships with stakeholders and the broader community.

Note: Each proposed initiative will be planned out in detail and subject to relevant development approvals. As part of this process, the community will have more opportunities to provide input on some of these actions.

Ongoing monitoring

As part of the strategy implementation, the Queensland Government will continue to monitor progress and assess any impacts on business and the community, including the existing ferry services and business input costs, as a result of the sand mine closures.

The Queensland Government will regularly collect and analyse relevant data to determine any future actions that may be needed to mitigate these impacts and protect the island's existing, thriving businesses.

Have your say

Community input and support is vital to achieve the goals of this economic transition strategy.

This document is not Queensland Government policy, but is designed to generate community input on actions that will make a difference for North Stradbroke Island.

To provide feedback or get a copy of the document, please contact the Department of State Development:

Phone
13QGOV (13 74 68)

Email
nsieconomictransition@dsd.qld.gov.au

Website
www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/NSI

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Images supplied by Tourism and Events Queensland, except for image on page 26 which is supplied by Robert Ashdown and Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing.

Attachment 6 - The key objectives, proposals and allocated funding for the North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy

Key Objectives

The key objectives of the North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy are to increase economic activity and employment in sectors where North Stradbroke Island already has a competitive advantage, namely:

- Sustainable tourism
- Education and training
- Local Business.

Proposals

Summary of initiatives:

1. Diversify and expand the current tourism industry (\$13.48 million State contribution)

Short-term initiatives

- Develop a strategy for expanding national parks and other protected areas and transfer expired mining leases in stages, with funded joint management arrangements.
- Undertake a planning study which identifies areas and sites suitable for development of eco-tourism and resort accommodation including current mining sites.
- Conduct marketing campaigns to increase awareness of North Stradbroke Island and increase local, interstate and international visitors.
- Create an events program to increase visitor numbers in the tourism low season (February to August).
- Progress the Minjerribah Cultural Centre project and promote the centre as a centrepiece for cultural tourism and education on the island.
- Grow and promote the Quandamooka Festival as a unique cultural festival, particularly to the local Brisbane market, to increase attendance.
- Provide locational and interpretative signage at key locations on the island, including a Quandamooka-designed entrance statement.
- Implement a six-year visitor research program on the island to better understand the market and its needs.
- Conduct a feasibility study to establish the viability of a Brisbane CBD–Dunwich ferry service.

Medium-term initiatives

- Develop and improve recreational trails on the island, such as pedestrian trails and cycle tracks.
- Develop camping infrastructure, in partnership with Straddie Camping, to improve existing facilities such as amenities, cabins and road access.
- Conduct a Tourism Investor Summit to attract private investment to the island, particularly in boutique accommodation.
- Construct an observation platform near Point Lookout with interpretative signage, primarily for watching marine species like whales and dolphins.
- Grant an exclusive whale-watching permit to the Quandamooka people to increase Indigenous tourism business opportunities and complement their other whale-related tourism ventures.

Information in Attachment 6 has been provided by the Department of State Development. For further detail please contact Danielle Ellem.

- Construct a jetty on Peel Island.

Long-term initiatives

- Construct a world-class whale interpretation facility, including a high quality natural museum with audio-visual facilities.

2. Expand the education and training sector (**\$5.2 million State contribution**)

Short-term initiatives

- Research new opportunities and potential barriers to expanding the market for school camps, field studies and tertiary research.
- Investigate improving the island's public transport options, including integration into TransLink.
- Develop new education and training products through a Centre for Island Learning.
- Create a service, such as an 'education exchange' to administer and coordinate all the education and training products on the island.

Medium-term initiatives

- Refurbish the existing Dunwich Secondary Campus to provide a hub for education and training on the island, including a modern resource and information centre.
- Expand the Indigenous land and sea ranger program on North Stradbroke Island.

3. Inspire business development and growth (**\$4 million State contribution**)

Short-term initiatives

- Implement an operator training and capacity-building program for existing businesses.

Medium-term initiatives

- Conduct master planning to develop a day visitor precinct for Dunwich that offers tourism experiences for nature, adventure and education-based visitors.
- Establish an Indigenous Business Development Fund to investigate new business opportunities for North Stradbroke Island.

Long-term initiatives

- Investigate the expansion of the existing aged care facilities on the island to double the existing capacity and create opportunities for employment in the aged care field.

Allocated Funding

The Queensland Government has allocated \$20 million to drive the North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy and facilitate stakeholder co-investment to deliver a sustainable economy.

An additional \$3.87 million will be provided for implementation of a number of specific actions in the strategy. These additional funds will also provide a committee to guide the strategy implementation; a senior officer to coordinate strategy implementation for five years; and offices on North Stradbroke Island and in Cleveland.

A further \$5 million will be allocated to help mine workers pursue new employment opportunities.

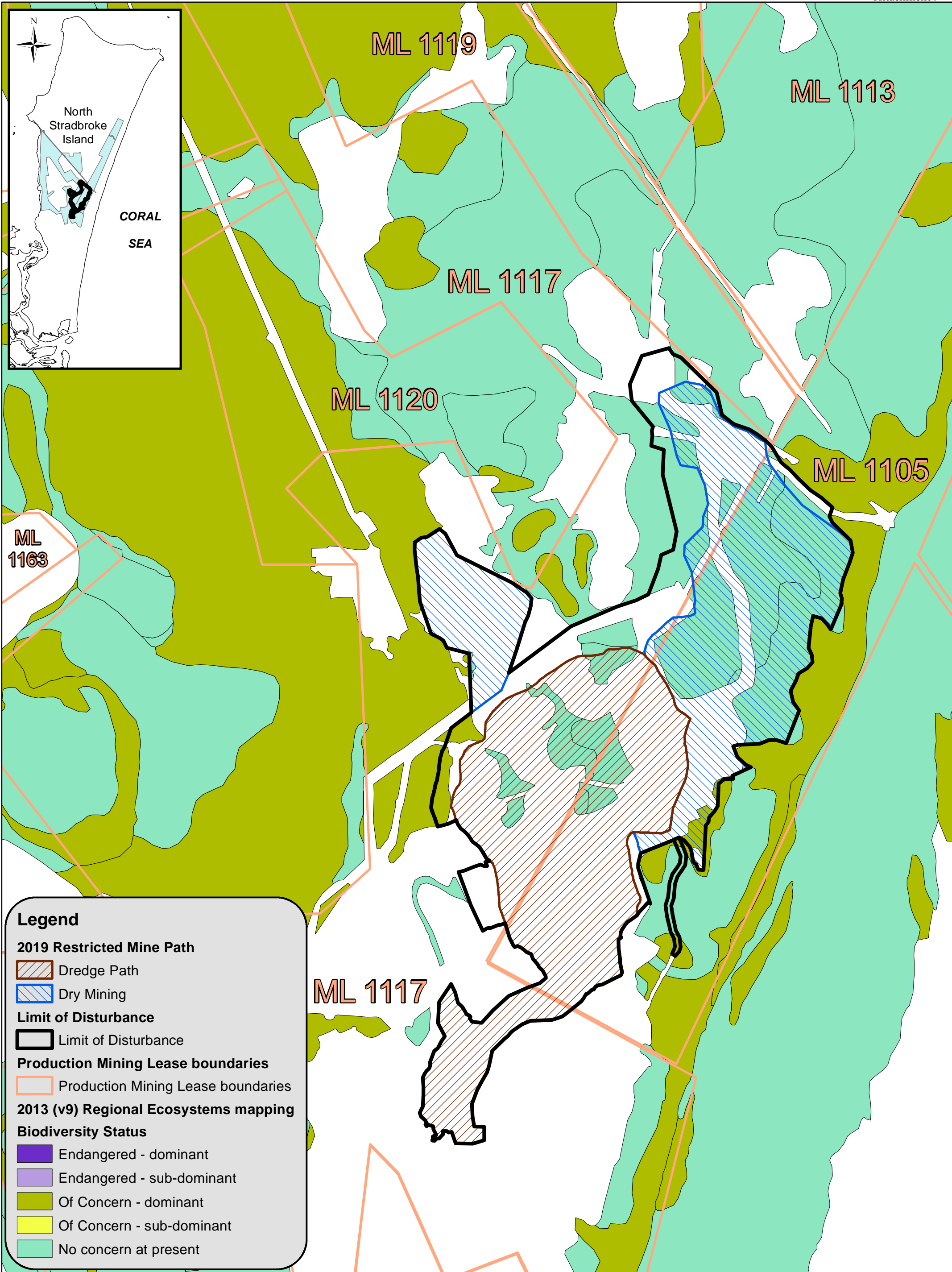
Information in Attachment 6 has been provided by the Department of State Development. For further detail please contact Danielle Ellem.

Separate from the Strategy, \$18.1 million in Queensland Government funding has been budgeted over the next three years (2015-16 to 2017-18) for a range of existing services such as:

- educational and training programs
- social and community infrastructure
- fire safety and refurbishment of associated facilities
- maintenance of park facilities and equipment, access tracks and cultural heritage areas
- land planning, surveys and assessments on the island
- primary healthcare, and specialist and allied health services.

Further information can be found within the draft North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy at **Appendix 1** or at this link:

<http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/resources/strategy/nsi/nsi-economic-transition-strategy.pdf>



Legend

2019 Restricted Mine Path

- Dredge Path
- Dry Mining

Limit of Disturbance

- Limit of Disturbance

Production Mining Lease boundaries

- Production Mining Lease boundaries

2013 (v9) Regional Ecosystems mapping

Biodiversity Status

- Endangered - dominant
- Endangered - sub-dominant
- Of Concern - dominant
- Of Concern - sub-dominant
- No concern at present