

## **Finance and Administration Committee Inquiry – North Stradbroke Island**

**Qld Treasury response to QON from public hearing of 8 April 2016**

### ***Will workers who have already lost their jobs in the sector in recent times be eligible for the Workers Assistance Scheme?***

The purpose of the Workers Assistance Scheme is to assist workers affected by the Government's decision to cease sand mining on North Stradbroke Island. Workers impacted by commercial decisions by Sibelco to close mines on North Stradbroke Island are not expected to be eligible for assistance under the North Stradbroke Island Sand Mining Workers Assistance Scheme.

Final eligibility for the Scheme will be finalised following consultation with Sibelco, workers and relevant unions.

### ***Does the Workers Assistance Scheme extend to workers in Pinkenba and Brisbane?***

The purpose of the North Stradbroke Island Sand Mining Workers Assistance Scheme (the Scheme) is to assist affected workers find alternative employment, preferably in the local area, to support the ongoing economic viability of the NSI community. The intent of the Scheme is to transition permanent workers impacted by the ceasing of sand mining to new jobs and careers. In determining the definition of eligible worker, the Government wishes to offer assistance, in the main, to the permanent workforce of sand mining operations. This may include workers at the Pinkenba mineral processing plant and Sibelco's corporate office. However, assistance will not be available for persons whose employment in sand mining was spasmodic and where the income from that employment did not constitute the person's main source of income. Final eligibility for the Scheme will be finalised following consultation with Sibelco, workers and relevant unions.

### ***Is Treasury aware that there are Sibelco workers in Brisbane who will be affected by the sandmining closure?***

Treasury notes Sibelco's submission to the inquiry identifies 13 full time workers at the Sibelco corporate office in South Brisbane. Treasury is not aware the extent to which these workers will be impacted by the sandmining closure.

### ***What part of the \$5 million is set aside for the employment of caseworkers and so on and what part of the \$5 million is set aside for financial assistance directly to the employees?***

The preliminary costing information is Cabinet in Confidence. The Government is considering whether to release this information to the Committee.