



Speech by


## Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard Thursday, 25 August 2011

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### NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND, MINING

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (3.52 pm): On Tuesday I tabled a petition from the North Stradbroke Island community sponsored by island resident and organiser Robyn Mortimer. Following the emotion charged rally on Straddie called 'Anna, don't shut Straddie down' held at the Dunwich sports ground on Easter Saturday, more than 1,500 infuriated island residents and supporters have come together to sign a petition calling on the government to reconsider its plan for the island. The large number of signatories strongly reflected the feelings of the majority of the locals when they gathered a few months ago to protest the government's ill-conceived, politically motivated and rushed plan for the island. The petition states—

We the residents of North Stradbroke Island wish to register our strong disapproval of your government's recent decisions to prematurely close down the island's mines and to turn 80 per cent of the island into national park. There is still time for you to meet and talk to the bulk of the island's three communities. There is still time for you to consider the actions that have already caused residents a great deal of stress and angst. There is still time for you to give us back our future.

I have consistently opposed the government's plan for North Stradbroke Island because it is not supported by the community. It will lead to large scale job losses in the mining and small business sectors and still more than a year later the government has provided no economic transitional plan and it does little for the environment.

The North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Bill was a politically motivated and rushed bill containing harmful measures that I could not support. In particular I objected to DERM's unsafe mine path that the member for Ashgrove championed in her legislation. The member for Ashgrove was more worried about preference deals with the Greens party in her electorate than the safety of miners.

**Ms JONES:** I rise to a point of order. I find that offensive. There was no unsafe mine path.

**Dr ROBINSON:** I withdraw. It was a relief that the minister backed down and agreed in mid-July to the LNP's position on the mine path. Unfortunately, common sense has not been extended to other aspects of—

**Ms JONES:** I rise to a point of order. There was no LNP mine path. I ask him to withdraw. There was no LNP mine path and he is misleading the House.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! There is no point of order.

**Dr ROBINSON:** Unfortunately, common sense has not been extended to other aspects of the Premier's rushed plan for the island. The Premier seems to forget that the island is inhabited by a community of 2,500 people and 220 small businesses and has its own economy, schools, police stations and other services.

*(Time expired)*

