



Speech by


## Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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### NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND, ECONOMY

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (3.47 pm): North Stradbroke Island is a beautiful and scenic island with enormous tourist potential and a great future. As I have said before, the 2,500 people are its greatest asset. I am privileged today to be the local member of parliament for Straddie residents.

Since June 2010, however, a cloud has formed over the island's future due to the rushed plans and political deals done by the Bligh Labor government. The government has dumped a huge economic problem on the island residents without consultation and without a clear economic strategy. Over 600 jobs, including mining, small business and other retail, will be lost at a cost of more than \$130 million per annum.

The government's response to the problem of creating a broad based economic future has been to set up a committee and to produce a spaghetti mess bureaucracy, but still there has been no real economic plan. The Premier's first plan was ecotourism alone—400 jobs were going to be created, putting all the eggs in one basket until the head of Brisbane Marketing said that that would need the equivalent of five Tangalooma resorts. Obviously that is something that was not going to happen. That would also take more than the 17 years that was originally planned. Now we only have eight.

Ecotourism is certainly a part of the bright future of North Stradbroke Island but not as a single solution. After almost 1½ years the economic transitional plan for the island has still not been released. There was no plan from the beginning and still no plan exists with any dollars. The latest economic plan is one without any money in it. It is Labor's empty piggybank plan for Straddie.

The government has continued to do nothing also about Toondah Harbour. I call on the Coordinator-General to step in and take a proactive role to driving this forward. Tourism also requires a better national park plan. The current one, with the next 30 per cent tranche to be set aside, includes sections of mine tailings—hardly ready for being set aside as national park in December. What a stuff up that is! Then there is the dual tenure problem that is unfolding. If there is one thing that the 2,500 residents would say to this Labor government it is this: 'Don't shut Straddie down as you are currently doing with your bad planning.'

*(Time expired)*