




Speech by

Steve Davies

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

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NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND, SANDMINING

 **Mr DAVIES** (Capalaba—LNP) (11.47 am): I rise today to talk about a recent trip I had over to North Stradbroke Island. While North Stradbroke Island is not in my electorate, Capalaba is the gateway to the Redlands and obviously the gateway to North Stradbroke Island. I went there at the invitation of Sibelco—the longest continuous sandmining company in Queensland. We went over there with the federal member for Bowman, Andrew Laming, to have a look at the whole process of sandmining with Sibelco. We suited up in hard hats, fluoros and protective goggles. We went from north to south, all over North Stradbroke Island, looking at the whole mining enterprise that Sibelco is involved in. It was a great trip. It was very informative. It was an absolute pleasure to see.

What impressed me was that it was a very tight and well-run enterprise. As a business, it runs well. It has great economic benefits for the people of Stradbroke and the wider Redlands and also Queensland as a whole. Sibelco employs 270 staff. Fifty per cent of those staff are Stradbroke locals. Of that 50 per cent of Stradbroke locals, 30 per cent are Indigenous people who live on Stradbroke Island who are employed by the mine in sandmining services. Of the other 50 per cent, 14 people from my electorate, the electorate of Capalaba, are employed at the sandmine. On top of that, there is wider employment in the electorate of Capalaba in support services to the mine. There would probably be many hundreds of people involved in supporting the mine and its services.

One of the other things the mine provides is \$5 million worth of royalties to the state of Queensland. \$5 million, particularly in these times, is very important. Over the last 10 years the mine has contributed over \$1 million to community projects on Stradbroke Island.

While the economics are very important, one of the things that really impressed me about the mine was the environmental outcomes of mining. I am not from the mining industry, but if you listen to many of the commentators, particularly those who are against sandmining on Stradbroke Island, you would think that sandminers were ogres driving around in four-wheel drives with a 30/30 shooting koalas from the trees and that they did not have any environmental credentials at all, but nothing could be further from the truth. Travelling with Sibelco and seeing the work it does, I was very impressed with the environmental commitment that Sibelco has in rehabilitating the land it sandmines. We had the absolute privilege of looking at many of Sibelco's rehabilitated leases. Every year Sibelco is involved in rehabilitating over 75 hectares. It is looking at increasing that rehabilitation to over 150 hectares per year.

Sibelco plants over 140,000 trees. Sibelco has one of the largest Indigenous native flora nurseries in Australia on Stradbroke Island. Literally thousands and thousands of native tree seeds are collected and planted onto old sandmining leases to rehabilitate the property. So successful is this sandmining rehabilitation venture that during the last election campaign former Premier Anna Bligh went over to Stradbroke Island—to garner some green support, I imagine—and stood in the middle of what she thought was a pristine piece of forestry and said, 'What a wonderful piece of pristine forest that is untouched by sandmining. This is what we want to protect.' In fact, 30 years prior that was a sandmine. It was land which Sibelco had reforested.

In another tragedy from the green ideology, the local school asked for some sand for their sandpit. Sibelco could not provide it; it was not allowed to. It had to import one tonne of sand from Byron Bay and bring it across in the barge so the kiddies could have a place to play because the green ideology would not allow them to put less than a yard of sand into a sandpit for kids. I want to commend the great work of Sibelco in providing jobs with an environmental outcome. I think it is a great example of how mining and the environment can work together.