




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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**NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY AND
ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (12.35 am): I rise tonight to speak in favour of the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill. If honourable members have lived in South-East Queensland for all their life, as I have, they would have a special relationship with North Stradbroke Island, or Straddie as everybody calls it. I have many fond memories of North Stradbroke Island. I can remember going there on an under-14 rugby league trip from West Arana Hills Football Club. It was my first visit.

Mr Ruthenberg: Did you win?

Mr MANDER: No, it was a camp at the end of the season. We had a great time there. It was my first experience in camping.

I remember going there a bit later when I got my driver's licence. I remember having my licence and when I went to Straddie it was the first time I had to back a car with a trailer into the barge. It was incredibly embarrassing; it took about half an hour. In fact, the barge operator had to come and do it for me. That is how bad it was. It was very embarrassing.

I can remember running camps there in my previous occupation with SU Queensland; I took kids over there for football camps and we created some great memories. More recently, in my older years I can remember going on regular fishing trips with my friends who go there every year—not that much fishing is done, but plenty of red wine is drunk and plenty of songs are sung. I have great memories of North Stradbroke Island.

The point I want to make is that in all that time that I went to Straddie I was totally oblivious to sandmining even occurring. You would not know it is occurring. It shows that everyday life on Straddie, tourism and mining can all co-exist. In fact, I cannot say it any better than the member for Moggill before me and the Premier when they said that this was a clear election commitment that we made—very clear. The people of Queensland but, more specifically, the people of Stradbroke island spoke very clearly. It was an emphatic win for the LNP, both in the eastern electorates of Brisbane and also throughout Queensland. So it is only right that we honour our election commitment because people voted for it.

We are committed to this project because we are committed to employment. We are committed to creating employment in this government. The only way that we can create employment is to ensure that we produce things, to improve productivity. That is the way that we will get to our four per cent target that the Premier has set in two terms of government. The Labor way of increasing employment is to put people on in the Public Service, increasing government expenditure on jobs that do not produce anything. My figures may not be exactly right, but I will get the gist of this. In the five years leading up to us coming into power, the increase in employment costs were at least eight to nine per cent per year. Is that right?

Mr Davies: That's about right, Tim.

Mr MANDER: We have now got that under control.

Mrs Frecklington: 0.2 per cent.

Mr MANDER: It is 0.2 per cent. We have now got this under control; the adults are now running the government and we are talking about increasing productivity.

So, members of the House, it is quite apparent that this is good policy. This is policy that we went to the election with; this is policy that the people voted for; and our only alternative is to actually support this and to make sure that we have true employment opportunities on Stradbroke island. I congratulate my colleague, the minister for national parks and recreation, for opening up Stradbroke island and other areas in this state to ecotourism. These industries can co-exist. We can create employment and create a better economy and a better—

Mrs Frecklington: Environment?

Mr MANDER: Environment—thank you very much, I was lost for words there for a moment, member for Nanango—which is obviously better for the people of North Stradbroke Island and the people of Queensland. I congratulate the minister for very good policy, of course simply following through with our election promise, and I commend this bill to the House.