




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY (RENEWAL OF MINING LEASES) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (12.05 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability (Renewal of Mining Leases) Amendment Bill 2015 [Withdrawn by leave of the House, see p. 2407, replaced with [1498](#)].

Tabled paper: North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability (Renewal of Mining Leases) Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes [[1485](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability (Renewal of Mining Leases) Amendment Bill 2015. The bill achieves a balanced approach to sustainably ending mining activities within a restricted mining path while supporting the Queensland government's vision for North Stradbroke Island. The bill provides a realistic time frame for the proposed economic transition strategy.

The former LNP government passed legislation to permit mining activities in the North Stradbroke Island region until 2035. The current Labor government planned to phase out mining activities by 2019. Basically this bill provides a sensible compromise. The primary objective of the bill is to sustainably end mining activities in the North Stradbroke Island region by the end of 2024. The bill also allows for rehabilitation of land in the region until the end of 2029.

This bill is a win for industry and workers as well as being a win for the community on North Stradbroke Island. It is a sensible compromise. For many years there has been public discussion and debate about the interconnected issues of mining, Aboriginal land rights and the environment on North Stradbroke Island. The bill is designed to respect the diverse points of view that exist to all. The bill is designed to provide a realistic time frame for an economic transition strategy to assist with diversifying the local economy by the Queensland government.

The KAP is concerned about employment in Queensland and is committed to protecting jobs. The AWU represents most of Sibelco's workers and is furious that 'no-one' in government is listening. Sibelco employs 110 workers at North Stradbroke Island, with about 20 per cent being Indigenous employees. Many of these employees are paying off mortgages and have family commitments like paying for their children's education. The company also directly employs a further 50 workers in Queensland and generates \$130 million each year into the local economy. AWU state secretary Ben Swan has said that mining workers are getting frustrated at successive Labor governments making

decisions around North Stradbroke Island without consulting the mine company's workforce. He said, 'In the past five years we have gone from "we're going to shut it down" to an extension of the lease out to 2035 and now we're back to "we're finishing in 2019".'

It should not be overlooked that sandmining is the single largest employing sector on North Stradbroke Island. It directly and indirectly supports between 500 and 750 residents of the total population. Sand has been mined on North Stradbroke Island for the last 60 years, since 1949. Sandmining has been the major tenant on North Stradbroke Island for many decades, supporting other businesses. For example, Sibelco comprises up to 30 per cent of business for the island's vehicle barge and ferry services and 26 per cent of the Stradbroke Ferries revenue. In a small business survey carried out in July 2015 by the Straddie chamber of commerce, results showed that approximately 85 per cent of the businesses favour sandmining continuing until at least 2025.

A total of 33 per cent favour an end date of 2035 and 33 per cent do not support the cessation of mining at all. In addition to employment, other economic benefits include royalties and taxes. Sibelco has confirmed that it is committed to making a substantial financial contribution to the economic transition strategy, assisting the Queensland government with diversifying the local economy to a future that is not reliant on sandmining. The KAP is committed to a sensible compromise by working with the community, industry and the Queensland government. The KAP is also committed to securing jobs and diversifying the North Stradbroke Island economy to a future that is not reliant on sandmining.

First Reading

Mr KNUTH (Dalrymple—KAP) (12.10 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.