




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

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ADJOURNMENT

North Stradbroke Island, Protests

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (1.58 am): The North Stradbroke Island community is outraged with the Palaszczuk government, with hundreds of people attending recent protests. With the government's economic transition stalling, many locals now refer to North Stradbroke Island as 'Stradbroke Island'. Deputy Premier Trad broke the island. The island was working well, but now it needs fixing due to the Deputy Premier's rush to shut down the resources sector without a plan.

QRC former chief executive Michael Roche predicted an economic and social disaster. The social consequences are already visible—rising unemployment, Aboriginal disadvantage and social disharmony. Labor's policies are producing a divided community between Indigenous groups and Quandamooka and non-Indigenous peoples and families.

A local publication highlighted this increasing social disharmony. On the cover page traditional owners and protest organisers Uncle Norm Enoch and Allison Myers led the Save Straddie 2019 protest against the state government and QYAC with signs like 'Your decisions are causing community trauma: stop'. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Document, dated June 2019, titled 'The Friendly Bay Islander Monthly, Vol. 8, No. 9' [986](#).

The large protest of 300 to 400 people expressed their concerns about the lack of consultation by the Queensland government and QYAC regarding the economic transition strategy. Many local Aboriginal community members and non-Aboriginal residents are angry about the lack of consultation and engagement with the island community. Respected Quandamooka community elder and protest organiser Uncle Norm Enoch says—

Many local Aboriginal community members and groups have been excluded from the planning, consultation and authorisation processes.

Indigenous protest organiser Allison Myers expressed her concerns that the government is out of touch with the local Quandamooka people and ignoring the long-held aspirations of many traditional owners.

The location of the ETS initiative of a proposed whale interpretative centre being at the environmentally sensitive and iconic headlands area at Point Lookout drew a protest in late 2018 of 400 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community members. Despite 20,000 people signing a petition and calls to locate the development elsewhere, the state government is ploughing ahead with its plans. Similar concerns of social disharmony were raised in the May editorial piece titled 'All is not well on North Stradbroke Island'. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from *The Friendly Bay Islander* online, dated 29 May 2019, titled 'All is not well on North Stradbroke Island' [987](#).

The Save Straddie 2019 group has called for an official, independent inquiry into what is currently going on. I call on the Premier to investigate her government's disruptive approach on Straddie and why Labor is not listening to island residents. I also support a federal inquiry to get the bottom of things

through Ken Wyatt, the first Aboriginal Minister for Indigenous Australians. This may be necessary for the Quandamooka people to get fairness and justice if the Deputy Premier keeps selling them out to keep her job.