
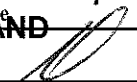


AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 31 ON THE  
NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY AND  
ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL 2013

	Paper No.: 5413T 4111
	Date: 20/11/13
	Member: CRIPS
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Clerk and Table: 	

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

**INTRODUCTION**

On 17 October 2013 the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013 (the Bill) was introduced to Parliament.

The Bill was subsequently referred to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee (the committee) with a report back date of 14 November 2013.

On 14 November 2013 the committee tabled its report no. 31 in relation to the Bill.

The Queensland Government response to recommendations made and clarification on points raised by the committee are provided below.

**RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendation 1**

The committee recommends that the government establish a process to ensure cooperation and proper planning across all levels of government and in consultation with the traditional owners, other residents and businesses on North Stradbroke Island, to assist the transition of the economy of the region from reliance on the mining industry to other industries.

**Government Response**

The government accepts this recommendation. The government is committed to working with the community, local businesses, traditional owners, Redland City Council to ensure an effective transition of the Island's economy and is extending sand mining on North Stradbroke Island so that there is adequate time for this to occur.

The pathway towards this transition has already started, for example, the government enacted the *Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2012* to allow for the authorisation of private ecotourism facilities in national park, national park (recovery), including indigenous joint management areas, and in national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land). In addition, the *Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) 2013* broadened the objects of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* to provide for recreation and commercial uses in protected areas, while continuing to retain a focus on nature conservation.

A land use planning study is currently being undertaken by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning together with Redland City Council and the Quandamooka People. This planning study is critical for the future planning of North

Stradbroke Island. It will identify areas of North Stradbroke Island that are suitable for residential, commercial, industrial and conservation uses.

The government is also working with the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) and the Quandamooka People to implement the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA). As implementation of the ILUA progresses, the opportunities for development on the Island will become clearer.

In addition, the QYAC and senior government representatives (from a range of departments) participate in quarterly round table discussions. This provides an opportunity for members of QYAC, Quandamooka Elders and the government to discuss matters relating to implementation of the ILUA in an open and consultative manner.

These actions will help crystallise the actions that all levels of government and the community, including the traditional owners, need to undertake to finalise an agreed economic transition plan.

## **Recommendation 2**

The committee recommends that the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013 be passed.

## **Government Response**

The government thanks the committee for its work on the Bill.

## **CLARIFICATION ON POINTS RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE**

### **Offset policy**

The committee invites the minister to inform the House how the offsets policy may operate.

### **Government Response**

All resource activity under a mining lease, including that on NSI, is exempt from the vegetation management framework. However, the mining activities may trigger a requirement for a biodiversity offset under the government's Biodiversity Offset Policy.

Officers from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection reviewed the current Regional Ecosystem and Essential Habitat Mapping to establish if a biodiversity offset would be required in accordance with Queensland's Environmental Offsets Policy. The department found that the following biodiversity values applied to the relevant mining leases:

- **Remnant 'Of Concern' Regional Ecosystems:** A mapped area exists on ML1105 and this has been excluded from the proposed project area. Mining operations cannot occur in those areas.
- **Essential Habitat:** The proposed project area contains approximately 960 Hectares of area mapped as Essential Habitat which could potentially be lost. This equates to approximately 5.38% of the total Essential Habitat on North Stradbroke Island.
- **Wetlands:** The proposed project area does not contain any area mapped as wetland.
- **Connectivity:** The proposed project area is contained within contiguous natural ecosystem, however connectivity will continue to be provided in areas adjacent to the operation.

- Protected plants and animals: The proposed project area is habitat for protected plants and animals, however it is only 5.38% of the Essential Habitat. Impacts on protected plants and animals were the subject of the Environmental Studies Report in Area A of the Environmental Authority Map. The study found that the mining operation was not likely to have a significant effect on protected flora and fauna.

Departmental officers have had due regard to the extent of damage that mining would have on these biodiversity values and determined that an offset was not required. This decision was based on:

- the size of the impacted area in context with the rest of the island;
  - the lower status of protection, as it does not meet the definition of Category A and B Environmentally Sensitive Areas;
  - the relative mobility of affected wildlife; and
  - the progressive rehabilitation.
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