

Finance and Administration Committee

From: Pete Kelleher
Sent: Monday, 29 February 2016 3:17 PM
To: Finance and Administration Committee
Subject: North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015

Finance and Administration Committee

Parliament House

George Street

Brisbane QLD 4000

North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015 (Government Bill)

North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability (Renewal of Mining Leases) Amendment Bill 2015 (Katter Party Bill)

Dear Committee Members,

I have been a resident of North Stradbroke Island for over 20 years.

In the early 2000's Consolidated Rutile, at that time owned by Iluka Pty Ltd and later sold to Sibelco, moved their workforce off the island and sold over 40 houses that had employed the bulk of their workforce. This was done without any consideration of the economic impact on the local community.

We are a small and resilient community. The company taking the bulk of their workforce off the island had little effect on the local economy. The economic contribution of mining to the local community was largely withdrawn at that time with around 200 workers previously housed by the company leaving the island.

There are now less than 50 actual residents employed by Sibelco on the island. It's a small place and we can personally list the names of employees at any given time. Most of these positions are in the low pay categories in rehabilitation etc. Claims to the contrary do not bare scrutiny. Ask for substantiation via a list of employees that are resident on the island. They are our friends and neighbours and they are currently about 40 in number and falling.

As above, the transition from a mining economy occurred over 10 years ago with no businesses closing and no lessening of property values.

I write in support of the Government's Bill because it will repeal the Newman government legislation that extended mining to 2035, and reinstate the 2019 end date as promised. I also support the reinstatement of the 2011 restricted mine path.

- Mining irreversibly damages the environment and Indigenous cultural values, and it should have ended years ago. 70 years of mining is enough.
- 2019 was a compromise date legislated in 2011, providing an 8-year extension on expired leases. I would prefer mining ended sooner.
- Sand mining is destructive: beautiful old growth forests are cleared, usually burnt, and the landscape is homogenised to a depth of up to 100 metres.
- Country is effectively passed through a pipe in order to extract the mineral. The complex layers within the dunes, so important to water flow, are destroyed.
- Rehabilitation cannot bring back ecosystems and geology that took thousands of years to develop.
- For Aboriginal people, specific sites are important but it's also the landscape that holds value and meaning. Too much has been lost through mining. There should be no more damage to culturally sensitive areas.
- I support provisions in the Bill that limit the damage to the environment and prevent harm to, or mining in, threatened ecosystems. I oppose giving the mining company another opportunity to renegotiate the mine path. They got that in 2011 and won many concessions in the process.
- I want to see rehabilitation obligations met to the highest standard without renewal of mining leases, and the costs fully met by the mining company. I oppose opening up leases for extraction that were previously off-limits to active mining under the original 2011 legislation, including ML1120.
- The Newman government was wrong to tear up native title agreements to extend mining to 2035. As a result, the Quandamooka people were forced to take the State of Queensland to the High Court, in order to protect their native title rights but they can withdraw the case if the Government Bill is passed.
- Mining on the island is winding down of its own accord. Sibelco recently closed one of the island's mines because the minerals ran out. The silica mine closed because it was uneconomical. Both closures resulted in significant job losses.
- Over the years the economic benefits of mining have been wildly exaggerated.
- The island community needs certainty
- A truly sustainable future for this iconic island lies in the wealth of its outstanding natural features and indigenous history and culture.
- Fifty per cent of the island is National Park. It's surrounded by Moreton Bay Marine Park and is a Ramsar site. It has gorgeous beaches, precious wetlands, a diverse ecology and an indigenous history and culture reaching back 20,000 years. The island has many significant species including koalas, acid frogs, swamp orchids, glossy black cockatoos, the oxleyana pygmy perch and water mouse.
- There are opportunities to build on already successful tourist, education and cottage industry businesses and this is already happening.
- I lodge my support for the Government Bill and the \$28 million assistance package for the island.

I oppose the Katter Party Bill because it allows for mining to 2024. It increases the mine footprint and will destroy threatened ecosystems. It doesn't have the consent of the traditional owners, making it likely the Quandamooka people would once again have to take High Court action to protect their native title rights and interests. The Katter Bill paves the way to a further extension to 2035 should there be a change of government.

Regards,

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Pete Kelleher