



Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

**APPROPRIATION BILLS: STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND
INDUSTRY COMMITTEE**

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (6.17 pm): I rise to address the estimates report for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning as part of the Appropriation Bill 2013. I specifically want to address some significant developments in Cleveland and on North Stradbroke Island. On 16 May, the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning visited the Cleveland electorate to announce the anticipated decision that Toondah Harbour had been approved as a priority development area, a PDA. This announcement was fantastic news for the residents of Cleveland and North Stradbroke Island, in that the LNP government has done something that no other government had done before and previous governments and councils had been hoping for for some 30 years. It is a landmark achievement in itself.

The PDA declaration was the first step in opening up a number of mixed-use proposal ideas for the Toondah Harbour site, including residential, infrastructure, tourism and retail opportunities. The Toondah PDA development will feature dedicated ferry terminals, public open space and the potential for a marina. I commend the work of Economic Development Queensland in identifying the Toondah Harbour site and I thank the Deputy Premier for his support for the project. The Toondah Harbour PDA and upgrade provide for the long-term future of North Stradbroke Island residents in the transition to a non-sandmining economy. This announcement has been welcomed also by the residents of North Stradbroke Island. The improvement of transport facilities to Straddie will assist in the growth of the tourism pillar on the island.

During estimates comments were made about the government's plans for the development of North Stradbroke Island and the implications for residents, including the Quandamooka people. I was very concerned to hear the ill-informed statements made by some Labor Party members during the estimates committee hearing.

So for the few minutes I have left, I will discuss planning issues with respect to two items. One is the government's long-term plan for the island and its transition from sandmining and the other is the Indigenous land use agreement. I start by stating categorically that the government is honouring its commitment to both extend sandmining on North Stradbroke Island and to fully implement the Indigenous land use agreement, the ILUA, with the Quandamooka people.

With regard to planning around sandmining, the decision to reinstate the previously understood time lines for sandmining was first made during July-August 2010, just after then Premier Bligh's announcement in June 2010 to end sandmining early. Anna Bligh flew to Straddie and dropped a plan to end sandmining very early—a plan hatched by extreme green groups and the result of a dirty green preference deal not community consultation.

The angry response of large numbers of local residents, Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents, was immediate. People from all over the island approached me over the next weeks and months asking the LNP to oppose Bligh's plan that they thought would virtually shut Straddie down. I

advised John-Paul Langbroek at the time of the uproar among the residents and the need to support the community. He agreed.

As a result of that initial response, I ran a survey. Some 700 responses from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people came back showing 80 to 90 per cent support for an extension of sandmining on the island. So the LNP's decision not to support Bligh's plan for Straddie was in large part due to the overwhelming rejection of the Bligh plan and the strong support of the community for mining to be allowed to continue. It was the right thing to do.

The commitment was continued by Campbell Newman when he became opposition leader in April 2011 and subsequently expressed when the LNP voted against Labor's North Stradbroke Island bill in July 2011. Thus no deal was made with anyone. It was a decision in response to the strong views of the over 2,000 island residents. The Premier was not in the parliament when the original decision was made and the current mines minister, Andrew Cripps, was not involved in the mining portfolio. So Labor's accusations in this House are baseless and false and are counter to the facts of the matter.

The LNP's plan to extend sandmining was then put strongly and clearly to the people at the election. Across all three booths on the island there was a high primary vote for the LNP of between 64 and 67 per cent. It was a very clear mandate. We are now working on that plan. We are implementing that plan. We are working with all residents, all groups on the island and the Quandamooka people. Their Indigenous land use agreement is also being fully implemented by this government. There have been many false claims made during estimates. I trust this corrects the record.