



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

North Stradbroke Island

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (3.22 pm): The September school holiday break has been yet another successful period of tourism on North Stradbroke Island. Every September the island packs out with families, outdoor enthusiasts and young people to enjoy the beaches and natural beauty that the island and Moreton Bay have to offer. During the first week of the school holidays I met with the volunteer Red Frogs chaplains in their work with young visitors to the island. The Red Frogs is a group of young people who support the holiday-makers on the island by handing out free red frogs, cooking pancake breakfasts at young people's apartments or simply by helping people to walk home safely after a night out. It is not hard to see why the Red Frogs have become so popular among the holiday-makers. It was great to spend time with the Red Frogs crew of Shannon Page, Anthony Luk, Tim Tasi, Buddie Enea, Jacinta Cruftin, Sam Steenson, Sharleen Christie, Kristelle Gilchrist and Scott McCallum. As a strong supporter of the Red Frogs chaplaincy program on North Stradbroke Island, I was pleased to support its funding from the government of \$10,000 per annum over the next three years. This season's holiday-makers were overwhelmingly well behaved and I think that that is a testament to the support of the local community groups and the police.

North Stradbroke Island is fast becoming one of South-East Queensland's foremost tourist destinations. The island will transition over the next decades into an economy based on nature based recreation, tourism, local business, education and Indigenous opportunity. This long-term vision of the residents is important. The major development of Toondah Harbour in Cleveland is in its early stages but is progressing well and, when completed, will feed into this great vision. The future of the residents of Straddie is now a bright one, largely due to such commitments and others taken by the Newman LNP government.

The rule of anticipation does not permit me to discuss the government's landmark decision to reinstate sandmining to the previously understood time lines, but I look forward to contributing to the debate later this year. I commend the Premier and Minister Cripps for listening to the thousands of local residents on Straddie and for honouring the government's commitment to save Straddie from the Bligh-made recession that was coming with today's introduction of the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013. A dark cloud came over the island in June 2010 when the Bligh government forced its loopy lefty plan on the island's residents without consultation and without local support. The huge majority of the island's 2,000-plus local residents rose up against the Bligh plan and called out, 'Anna, don't shut Straddie down!' The Bligh plan has been eating away at the local economy, destroying jobs and driving up the costs of living and tourism on the island. But the bill introduced today will save the people of Straddie. This government is delivering for the people of Straddie, Cleveland and Redland City with tourism recovering, mining staying strong, property and construction slowly coming back and with groups like the Red Frogs who bless us all.