



Speech By
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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

North Stradbroke Island, Economic Transition Group

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (11.36 am): It is my pleasure today to advise the parliament that the LNP government has announced the formation of an economic transition group to steer North Stradbroke Island through its economic transition to a broadbased post mining economy. Having the support of the government to form the NSI Economic Transition Group means that we can better plan for the island's economic future. Much work will need to be done if we are to ensure a smooth transition over coming years from mining to an alternative economy, but unlike the previous government's political plan, our plan is the only plan that allows island residents the time and opportunity to successfully make the transition without falling into a destructive local recession.

This plan to allow sandmining further time and to not shut Straddie down supports the wishes of the 90 per cent majority of island residents including most Indigenous families. It allows sufficient time to grow alternative businesses and economies. To achieve this aim, we will need all parties to work collaboratively towards a common goal: a sustainable future for the island and its people. Island residents, community groups and small, medium and large businesses must work together if the island's full potential and a sustainable economy is to be realised. The formation of an economic future group will run in parallel to the well-established Quandamooka round table, formed to address the implementation of the important ILUA on North Stradbroke Island with the Quandamooka people. I envisage that both groups will work together on a vision and strategy for the island's future.

Membership for the NSIETG will be drawn mainly from business leaders and groups who have both an existing economic or business interest in the island and a vision for its future. The government is in the process of approaching key people to be potential members. Prominent businesses and other entities such as Straddie Camping, QYAC, Straddie chamber, tourism and transport operators, the University of Queensland, Sibelco, Redland City Council and federal entities may be invited to work together to investigate and help plan a viable future for the island.

I want to thank the Deputy Premier, Jeff Seeney, for committing a senior officer from his Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning to be part of the group. The department will also provide support such as economic analysis, economic strategies, development facilitation and land use planning and development. These changes are compatible with the government's stated aim of a more broadbased economic development. The department leading the way, informed by key locals, will mean the government can plan and deliver the services, infrastructure and opportunities that local residents want.

The structure of the ETG is different to the spaghetti mess that Labor tried to set up under DERM. DERM's powerless and insipid approach achieved very little but typically spent a lot of taxpayer funds and resources that achieved little. The Redland City Council has also been invited to be represented on the ETG via the Mayor, Karen Williams. Councillor Williams has advised that she looks forward to playing a role in the transition process. Her role as co-chair of the ETG, together with

me, will ensure a wide-ranging, whole-of-government approach. I agree with Councillor Williams when she stated, 'The formation of an economic transition group with appropriate representation of government, business and the community to advise government is critical to the future planning needs and economic development of the island.' Once the ETG is finalised, one of its first duties will be to consider key elements of the former ETT and to adapt or adopt anything that is still useful.

The announcement of the economic transition group comes on the back of the government's amendments to the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Amendment and Another Act 2013 that allows sandmining to continue, plus plans to upgrade Toondah Harbour and to start a Rural Fire Brigade on Straddie among other exciting developments.

Only the LNP has a strong plan for Straddie residents. Only the LNP has a plan to save their jobs, a plan that supports and grows the local economy in a carefully managed economic transition, one that manages the national parks together with the Quandamooka people and that grows tourism, education and Indigenous opportunity. Labor plans to cut jobs, starting with 250 mining workers, followed by the hundreds of small business jobs that will go as a part of another Labor recession that we had to have. Labor's plans are to sack 150 Indigenous workers and send them from good, paying jobs that provide a good standard of living and sense of pride back to the dole queues. Labor and the Greens are planning for the demise of the island's economy and jobs. This government's decision to establish an ETG provides the local advice and inputs to government and is part of our strong plan that will deliver a bright future for the people of North Stradbroke Island.