

Date:

Email: thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au

Dear Premier

Your Government has said it will allow sand mining on North Stradbroke Island (NSI) to continue until 2027, but you have gone back on your promise and are now closing down mineral sands mining on North Stradbroke Island by 2019. We are now, more than ever, concerned about the future of our families, businesses, community and our way of life.

Generations of families have grown up on NSI and are supported by mining. Mining has helped build our community. It has helped build the roads we drive on, the schools our children learn in and supplied the infrastructure which services our homes. It has provided training and skilled job opportunities for our Indigenous community and for our mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. Without sand mining who will be left to operate the ferries, work in our local businesses, educate our children or provide training and employment opportunities for our community?

Put simply, without mining in the short to medium term – Straddie will shut down.

Your Government has nominated nature based tourism to take sand mining's place on NSI, but we know our island, and we see the numbers of tourists dwindle during the cooler periods and only pick up during peak holiday times (Easter, Christmas and New Year). Shutting down the mines and expecting eco-tourism to sustain the island and our community is not realistic. We need mining to support the community in the interim, while your proposed eco-tourism industry is investigated, planned and developed.

I believe Sibelco Australia's vision for a 'Sustainable Stradbroke' is fair and respects our community, our environment and our way of life. Ensuring the Enterprise Mine remains operational until 2027 will give our community time to adjust, and your proposed eco-tourism industry the time required to establish itself.

We see first-hand Sibelco Australia's commitment to the environment and people of NSI. And we believe what they are proposing will ensure the best outcome for us, our island and your Government.

To ensure a sustainable and economically viable future, we need a gradual phasing out of mining to 2027. We need time to adjust, time for new industries to develop and time to plan for our future.

Don't shut sand mining on NSI down – for a Sustainable Stradbroke let the current levels of mining activity be able to continue to 2027.

Yours sincerely