



**AUSTRALIAN
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION**



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Environment groups support the Quandamooka People objection to plans by the Newman government to expand mining on North Stradbroke Island.

Following on from revelations on ABC's 7.30 program, a number of environment groups are calling on the Newman government to rule out amending legislation to allow expansion of the Enterprise mine beyond 2019.

The groups are urging the government to uphold native title agreements that would prevent the mine extension.

Mr Paul Donatiu from National Parks Association Queensland said "Mining should have ended on Stradbroke years ago, after 60 years the island's environment has had enough. Whilst we sympathise with mine workers, the previous government legislated a very generous extension on the Enterprise mine of eight years to facilitate a transition away from mining. "

Dr Jan Aldenhoven, local environmentalist, said "History was made in 2011 when North Stradbroke Island was handed back to the island's traditional owners, the Quandamooka People.

Native title settlement involved a special agreement between the State and Quandamooka set out in an ILUA (Indigenous Land Use Agreement). It's our understanding that the agreement reflects the 2011 North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act and its provisions for Enterprise mine to end in 2019 and the majority of the island to be made national park."

"We support the Quandamooka people having their native title rights and ILUA protected from any decision to award a foreign mining company special interests. For too long Aboriginal people have had their rights undermined by governments," Dr Aldenhoven said.

Mr Donatiu said "The Quandamooka people fought long and hard for their native title rights. The Newman government must not trample over those rights for the sake of an apparent pre-election promise to a mining company."

Dr Aldenhoven said "We are well aware Sibelco has spent millions of dollars to win influence with the Newman government including the campaign in Ashgrove to get Newman elected. We are deeply concerned that Sibelco has had so much high level government access and yet the Quandamooka people have had so little. Where is the justice in that?"

“The PR may say that an extension of mining at Enterprise is relatively minor in terms of the whole island area. But an aerial photo or Google Earth picture of the huge mine crater gives a true sense of the scale of devastation. The open mine spans about half the width of the island. Machinery is homogenising the landscape 24\7 to a depth of 100 metres,” said Dr Aldenhoven.

Mr Donatui noted, “Stradbroke is a beautiful island with stunning beaches, crystal lagoons, koalas, diverse wildflowers and many rare and endangered plants. Sandmining destroys the land. Extension of mining means more impact on the current and future national park values and Ramsar listed wetlands. “

“The future for the island lies with businesses that are based on the island’s natural assets and rich Indigenous culture, including businesses in education, the arts and tourism”.

“We call on all people who care for Stradbroke Island to let the government know you don’t support any expansion of any mines on the island,” said Mr Donatui.

Mr Jonathan La Nauze from the Australian Conservation Foundation said the situation on Stradbroke Island was another example of state governments not being able to be trusted to protect places of national environmental significance.

“Unfortunately, if state governments had the final say on environmental approvals, there would be oil rigs on the Great Barrier Reef and a dam on the Franklin River,” Mr La Nauze said.

“The national government should have the final say on proposed developments that might damage places with national environmental significance,” he said.

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