



MEDIA RELEASE

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Bligh's Bill of broken promises passed

The Bligh Government yesterday officially broke its promise to the North Stradbroke Island community by voting in parliament to shut sand mining down by 2019.

By rushing the legislation through parliament, the Premier broke a black and white promise made in June 2010 to allow for a transitional period to end mining which would run until 2027.

Sibelco Australia Chief Executive Officer Campbell Jones said the significantly earlier closure meant the economic security of some 650 workers and over 2,000 Island residents was now at risk.

"By breaking her promise and passing this legislation, the Premier has betrayed the people of North Stradbroke Island," Mr Jones said.

"The Premier appears to have chosen to pander to minority and green groups who have always opposed any type of economic development on the Island.

"The Government has completely ignored our vision for the future of the Island that fits with their plan for Queensland as a 'Strong, Green, Smart, Healthy and Fair' state."

Mr Jones said if the decision was not reversed, the passing of the legislation would result in 94 percent of mining operations being shut down by 2019.

"Hundreds of jobs would be removed from the Island. This would cripple local businesses, schools and vital infrastructure," he said.

An expert economic analysis report, conducted by Synergies Economic Consulting in June 2010, identified that half of all economic activity on North Stradbroke Island related to sand mining.

"Unless we win the fight to reverse this state government decision, the Bligh Government will not only destroy jobs on the Island and Redland City, but strip more than \$130 million annually from the economy, according to the report," he said.

Mr Jones welcomed the LNP's opposition in parliament to the legislation.

"By opposing the Bligh Government's Bill, the LNP is standing up for the people of North Stradbroke Island and fighting to protect their future," Mr Jones said.

Sibelco directly employs 275 staff on the Island, Pinkenba and Murarrie, and when combined with the 375 suppliers' jobs which rely on Sibelco's sand mining operations, the number of jobs put at risk by the early closure would be 650 in total.

Sibelco has promised its employees and the local community that it will continue its fight against the state government's actions.

"We intend to fight this decision, we will not back down," Mr Jones said.

"Sand mining operations can and should continue on North Stradbroke Island until 2027 as previously promised by the Premier to secure the Island's economic, environmental and social future."

Details on Sibelco's vision for the future of North Stradbroke Island can be found on www.sustainablestradbroke.com.au.

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