

Anna, where you're sitting used to be a sand mine.



This photo was taken last Sunday at the site chosen by the Premier to announce a new national park on North Stradbroke Island.

Ironically this site and the dune on which the Premier is sitting used to be a sand mine. It's obvious that she likes it and the tourists who visit every year certainly do as well.

We're proud of our rehabilitation heritage; in fact we have won awards for it (including an award from the Premier's own Environmental Protection Agency in 2008).

Independent studies have shown the rehabilitation on the island is of such a high quality, that koalas and other native species are returning to the rehabilitated areas. It must be good, because the Premier wants to make it a national park.

Sand mined on North Stradbroke Island is used in a variety of ways including as an important ingredient in toothpaste to stop tooth decay, glass, titanium metal, artificial limbs and paint.

Sand mining, the environment and tourism have happily coexisted for decades. In fact, the mining operations continue to support much of the infrastructure which has made Straddie the place it is today.

Barge and ferry services, fuel supplies, coffee shops and local stores are all able to withstand the seasonal nature of tourism through the support of an all-year-round economic activity which sand mining has brought to the island.

When the Premier announced in June 2010 that sand mining was to cease by 2027, Sibelco was prepared to work to assist Straddie transition to other industries. This was despite the fact we had plans to continue mining until 2035 and beyond. The recent backflip by the Premier to 'fast-track' the end of mining by 2019 will sadly mean that Straddie will have little time to develop other industries.

Ending mining prematurely will shut Straddie down.

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