



Hon Dr Steven Miles MP  
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and  
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Ref CTS 22051/15

15 OCT 2015

Mr Neil Laurie  
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2015 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2412-15 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly. Please accept this letter as my response to this petition and I request that, under Standing Order 125, you table the response by Thursday, 15 October 2015.

The North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011 (the Act) was developed by the then government after consultation on the vision for North Stradbroke Island, taking into account the response from the community. The aim was to provide a balanced resolution and certainty for all interests on the island. The Act substantially phased out mining by 2019.

In 2013, the previous government introduced the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Act 2013 (NSIPS Act) to amend the legislation to extend the timeframe for mining to 2035. These changes delayed progress on the transition from mining and the development of other opportunities for the island.

This Government has committed to returning the NSIPS Act to its original intent.

To support the islands' residents through the transition away from sand mining, this Government has committed \$20 million towards an economic transition strategy. I am currently working closely with Ministers across multiple portfolios, as well as Redland City Council, to ensure the development of this strategy takes into account the interests and needs of affected stakeholders.

The development of the transition strategy is building on a significant amount of work already undertaken. There will be a focus on identifying practical initiatives that can be started in the short term while working with local industries, native title holders and the broader community to identify and pursue projects and investments that will bring long-term positive environmental, social and economic benefits to North Stradbroke Island.

Yours sincerely

**DR STEVEN MILES MP**  
**Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and**  
**Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef**