A new chapter for Straddie

Background

The Queensland Government is committed to phasing out sand mining on North Stradbroke Island—also known as Minjerribah—and expanding the island’s industries to ensure a strong, diverse and sustainable economy for all who live and work there.

In May 2016, the Queensland Parliament passed legislation that will substantially cease sand mining on the island by 2019.

The end of sand mining brings an opportunity to reinvigorate North Stradbroke Island’s economy, aligning it with community aspirations, and capitalising on its unique cultural, historical and environmental values.

Strategy for economic transition

The North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy sets out the Queensland Government’s plan for transitioning the island to become an eco-tourism hub. The strategy was released on 1 September 2016 following extensive stakeholder and community consultation.

Twenty million was allocated by the Queensland Government $20 million to drive the strategy and facilitate stakeholder co-investment across the 23 initiatives it contains supporting sustainable tourism, education, training and growth of local business.

In addition, a $3.87 million in-kind contribution was also provided for identified actions and $5 million through the North Stradbroke Island Workers Assistance Scheme to help mine workers pursue new employment opportunities.

In June 2018, a further $4.75 million support was committed toward the initiatives under the strategy, bringing the Queensland Government’s commitment to $33.62 million.
Initiatives

While the strategy is not designed to create direct jobs for retrenched workers, the series of initiatives contained within it have been carefully considered to ensure long-term benefits and opportunities for North Stradbroke Island’s future generations.

Each will be planned out in detail and are subject to relevant development approvals, as required. The community will also have an opportunity to provide their input about some projects.

Initiatives include:

- partnering with Straddie Camping to improve camping amenities and road access
- helping Redland City Council improve interpretive and locational signage
- supporting the Quandamooka Festival (building on the momentum of the inaugural 2015 festival)
- establishing an Indigenous Business Development Fund to foster Indigenous tourism, education and business
- master planning for Dunwich and a visitor precinct, eco-tourism and resort accommodation
- investigating public transport improvements and integration
- capturing new markets (e.g. for school camps, field studies and tertiary research) by improving education and training facilities.

Other government initiatives being delivered for North Stradbroke Island include:

- implementation of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement
- joint management arrangements for Naree Budjong Djara National Park
- infrastructure planning for the One Mile settlement.

Next steps

The Queensland Government’s $33.62 million commitment aims to kick-start this long-term strategy. Further opportunities are expected to arise as the strategy is implemented, including co-investment opportunities for other investors to partner with local businesses and organisations.

Delivery of initiatives

A committee, chaired by the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games (DITID), is working in collaboration with key stakeholders including Redland City Council, the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, the University of Queensland and the Straddie Chamber of Commerce to guide implementation of the strategy.

Each project has been appointed a project lead who is responsible for implementing and reporting on the status of individual projects. The Queensland Government is supporting project leads in the implementation of the strategy.
Support services on the island

Senior government officers are coordinating implementation of the strategy, with some employees working from an office established in Dunwich. These officers are working closely with key stakeholders and the community.

The Dunwich office is also able to provide information to retrenched Sibelco workers about support and assistance services available from state and federal government agencies.

More information

North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy
Visit: 2/9 Ballow Rd, Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island
Phone: 07 3415 2349
Mobile: 0472 845 014 or 0484 603 034
Email: NSIETS@ditid.qld.gov.au
Facebook: facebook.com/NorthStradbrokeIslandFutures
Twitter: twitter.com/StraddieFutures
Instagram: Instagram.com/straddiefutures

North Stradbroke Island Workers Assistance Scheme
Visit: 2/9 Ballow Rd, Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island
Phone: 07 3415 2349
Mobile: 0478 405 423
Email: nsiwas@dsmip.qld.gov.au