Through native title, to a glad tomorrow

Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation
2015 issues briefing
for the Queensland government and parliament
From the CEO

On behalf of the Quandamooka People I would like to congratulate you on being elected as a member of the Queensland parliament.

I would also like to thank you for taking the time to familiarize yourself with QYAC, the Quandamooka People and the current issues we are seeking the assistance of the Queensland government and Queensland parliament to resolve.

These issues include:

- the negative impact of the *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Act 2013 (Qld)* on the rights of the Quandamooka People;
- the infrastructure needs of the One Mile settlement near Dunwich on North Stradbroke Island;
- funding for the North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Plan – that is, funds to support the transition from mining on North Stradbroke Island to other industries; and
- funding to support the joint State-Quandamooka management of the Naree Budjongo Djarra National Park, which is on Quandamooka land, on North Stradbroke Island.

QYAC believes the effective resolution of these issues will restore and advance the rights and well-being of the Quandamooka People, help us better care for Quandamooka “Country” – the Moreton Bay region, including its coastline and islands - and develop North Stradbroke Island in a more sustainable and aesthetic way for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

In recent decades significant progress has been made in developing trust and good relations between the traditional owners of North Stradbroke Island and the wider Queensland and Australian communities.

Some of that progress was reversed by the passing of the *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Act 2013 (Qld)* in the last parliament. This Act effectively tore up the agreement the Quandamooka People had with the State of Queensland for the management and development of their traditional lands on North Stradbroke Island. In the process the rights of the Quandamooka People, as native title holders of the said lands, were also ignored.
However, QYAC looks forward to working with you, as a member of this new parliament, to get things back on track so we can again work together, in a way that respects everyone’s rights and obligations, for the benefit of this beautiful part of Queensland. If you would like to discuss any of these issues in greater detail feel free to contact me at QYAC’s Dunwich office on:
(07) 3415 2816
or at
ceo@qyac.net.au

Let’s again work together:
... for the benefit of this beautiful part of Queensland.
Executive summary

The Quandamooka People are the indigenous people of Moreton Bay. They are the traditional owners of North Stradbroke Island, who have owned and occupied the lands and waters of Moreton Bay since time immemorial. (See page 9)

On 4 July 2011 the Federal Court of Australia granted the Quandamooka People native title over large sections of North Stradbroke Island and various nearby islands and waters. (See page 13)

The Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) is the body corporate established to manage these native title rights and interests for the benefit of the Quandamooka People. (See page 5)

On behalf of the Quandamooka People, QYAC has four immediate requests of the new 2015 Queensland parliament:

1. **North Stradbroke Island mining laws**
   – see page 22
   That you support the repeal of the *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Act 2013* and that you urge the State Government to introduce the repeal legislation as a matter of priority so it is passed before the end of 2015.

2. **Justice for One Mile residents**
   – housing and infrastructure improvements
   – see page 27
   That you support the necessary funding to ensure One Mile residents have access to essential infrastructure services such as clean water, sewage, electricity and waste management by 2017. Preliminary estimates have costed this at about $20 million. QYAC is committed to working with the State Government and Redland City Council to try and reduce or partially offset this cost, without compromising the quality of the services.
3. **North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy – see page 31**

That you support the restoration of more than $20 million in State Government funding, over five years, for a North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy, so NSI can transition to an eco-cultural tourism destination with QYAC chairing the process.

4. **Joint management of Naree Budjong Djara National Park – see page 41**

That you ensure the State Government continues funding the $2 million per annum necessary for joint management of Naree Budjong Djara National Park, which is on Quandamooka land. QYAC also asks that you ensure the funds are dedicated in future Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service budgets over five years and that they are delivered in accordance with the Indigenous Joint Management Agreement, including continuity of the joint manager position at QYAC.

QYAC believes these are just and reasonable requests and will deliver significant benefits to the Quandamooka People and the rest of Queensland.

This investment, now, in this beautiful part of Queensland will deliver significant returns for Queensland, well into the future.

This investment, now, will help ensure native title delivers “a glad tomorrow”.
WHAT IS QYAC?
What is **QYAC?**

The Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) is a Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) (more technically known as a Registered Native Title Body Corporate [RNTBC]) created in 2011 under the Native Title Act 1993. The Native Title Act requires native title groups to create a PBC to manage their recognized native title rights and interests. Some of the Quandamooka rights and interests include:

- implementation of the Indigenous Management Agreement (IMA);
- joint management of the Naree Budjong Djara (Our Mother Earth) National Park, which is on Quandamooka land;
- operation and maintenance of the Quandamooka People’s Gift Fund;
- ownership and management of Minjerribah Camping;
- the right to take and use traditional natural resources;
- the right to live and be present on the determination area; and
- the right to conduct ceremonies and protect and maintain areas of significance.

QYAC is registered with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC). The Registrar is an independent statutory office holder who administers the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (the CATSI Act). QYAC is required to operate in compliance with the CATSI Act and is regulated by ORIC.

QYAC in summary

The Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) is a prescribed body corporate registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006.

It was established to manage the native title rights and interests for the benefit of the Quandamooka People. Yoolooburrabee means ‘people of the sand and sea’.

How to contact QYAC

QYAC’s main office is located at Dunwich on beautiful North Stradbroke Island. However, we can also arrange to meet you on the mainland to discuss your needs there if that is more convenient.

**Address:** 100 East Coast Road, Dunwich.

**Phone:** (07) 3415 2816

**Email:** projects@qyac.net.au

**Website:** www.qyac.net.au

**Business Hours:** 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday – Friday

**CEO:** Cameron Costello

**Joint Management Coordinator/Land and Sea Manager:** Darren Burns

**Cultural Heritage Coordinator:** Michael Costelloe

**Senior Administration Officer:** Mandy Tedeschi
QYAC is also the registered cultural heritage body under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (QLD). It is responsible for cultural heritage management across the Quandamooka estate.

In addition, QYAC has a number of statutory obligations and key links with the following legislation:

- *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011* (QLD);
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (QLD); and

QYAC also has a key role to play in the following local plans and strategies:

- North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy;
- Quandamooka Action Plan;
- North Stradbroke Island Indigenous Business Development Plan; and
- Quandamooka Aboriginal Community Plan.

QYAC has a strategy for North Stradbroke Island to move beyond a sand-mining economy to a more diversified and sustainable economy. This strategy, complemented by the plans listed above, helps focus the efforts of the Quandamooka People so this transition is done in a culturally and economically sustainable way.
QYAC board members 2015

Dr Valerie Cooms – Chairperson
Karen Rylance
Evelyn Parkin
Gavin Costelloe
Christine O’Keeffe
Jeanette Burns
Leigh McPhaill
Dwayne Little
Paul Martin
Dean Parkin

Visit our QYAC website at www.qyac.net.au
THE QUANDAMOOKA PEOPLE
The Quandamooka People are a First Nation of over 2000 traditional owners from Moreton Bay, south east Queensland, Australia. The clans of the Quandamooka include the Nunukul, Ngughi and Goenpul.

According to the 2011 Census, there were 425 Aboriginal residents on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island). The Australian Bureau of Statistics believes a significant undercount exists for Aboriginal people in the south east region and that the actual figures are considerably higher. It is estimated that about two-thirds of Quandamooka People currently live away from the island. QYAC membership figures confirm a significant number of Quandamooka People live ‘off-country’ in south east Queensland, with a number of families also living in north and far north Queensland.

The Quandamooka territory (see adjacent map), known as “Country”, comprises the waters and lands of and around Moorgumpin (Moreton Island), Minjerribah, the southern Moreton Bay islands and South Stradbroke Island. It includes the mainland from the mouth of the Brisbane River, Wynnum, Chandler, Lytton, Belmont, Tingalpa, south to Cleveland and the Logan River. Parts of Quandamooka “Country” exist in four Queensland local government areas – the Brisbane City Council, Redland City Council, Logan City Council and Gold Coast City Council.

The Quandamooka People continue to operate under their own distinct system of laws and customs.
Quandamooka street art at Wynnum

The Brisbane City Council is one of four local government authorities with boundaries crossed by Quandamooka “Country.”

The others are:

- Redland City Council
- Logan City Council
- Gold Coast City Council
SECURING QUANDAMOOKA COUNTRY
Securing **Quandamooka** Country

1. The initial native title claim - North Stradbroke & surrounds

- **Introduction**
  
  As stated previously the Quandamooka People’s territory, known as “Country”, comprises the lands of and waters around Moorgumpin (Moreton Island), Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island), the southern Moreton Bay islands and South Stradbroke Island. It includes the mainland from the mouth of the Brisbane River, Wynnum, Chandler, Lytton, Belmont, Tingalpa, south to Cleveland and the Logan River.

  The Quandamooka have never ceded sovereignty of their Country and this issue remains live for the Quandamooka People, who continue to operate under their own distinct system of laws and customs.

  The Quandamooka People are now also recognized within the Australian legal system under its native title laws. The Federal Court of Australia formalized this recognition on 4 July 2011, when Justice Dowsett made a binding order on all governments to recognize the society known as the Quandamooka People and its enduring connection to a claim area comprising waters, islands and land on and around Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) - see adjacent map.

- **The process – a summary**
  
  **At least 20,000 years BCE**
  
  Quandamooka People arrive at North Stradbroke Island

  At least 20,000 years Before the Common/Christian Era people settled in what is now the Moreton Bay region of Queensland and on North Stradbroke Island. The descendants of those people – the Quandamooka People - have maintained a continuous presence in the area ever since.

  **18th century**
  
  British colonisation starts

  In 1770 Captain James Cook claims possession of the east coast of Australia for Great Britain.

  On 26 January 1788 the British colony of New South Wales was established and effected the purported annexation of the east coast of Australia and adjacent waters including North Stradbroke Island or Minjerribah as it was then known to its traditional residents.

  **19th century**
  
  Europeans settle at Moreton Bay (Quandamooka)

  In 1824 a permanent European presence is established in the Moreton Bay-Brisbane region in the form of a penal colony for secondary punishment for convicts transported to New South Wales from Great Britain who had again offended in the colony.
That year a pilot station was established at Pulan (Amity Point), North Stradbroke Island, effecting the first substantial contact between the British and the Quandamooka People.

In 1842 “free” European settlement was authorised for the Moreton Bay-Brisbane River area.

In December 1859 the colony of Queensland comes into being as a separate entity from New South Wales, giving effect to the 6 June 1859 Letters Patent authorised by Queen Victoria.

20th century
Federation - and Queensland becomes a State within the national constitution

In January 1901 the Australian colonies federate as the Commonwealth of Australia and Queensland becomes a State of the federation, bound by the new national constitution.

1990s
1. Mabo decision from the High Court

Mabo v Queensland (No 2) (commonly known as Mabo) was a landmark High Court of Australia decision recognising, for the first time, native title in Australia, as a common law right for those people who traditionally occupied areas of land prior to colonisation and who have continued their connection to the said land. The High Court rejected the doctrine of *terra nullius*, in favour of the common law right of aboriginal title.

2. Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)

The *Native Title Act 1993* is a federal law passed by the Australian parliament in response to the High Court’s "Mabo" decision. The purpose of this Act is "to provide a national system for the recognition and protection of native title and for its co-existence with the national land management system". The *Native Title Act 1993* commenced operation on 1 January 1994.

3. Native title claims lodged & registered

Quandamooka native title claims were lodged, in accordance with the *Native Title Act* on:

- Quandamooka 1 – 3 January 1995
- Quandamooka 2 – 10 September 1999

Quandamooka native title claims were then registered by the National Native Title Tribunal on:

- Quandamooka 1 – 11 October 2000
- Quandamooka 2 – 14 June 2000

The early 2000s
Resolution of boundary issues

It was common not to progress claims until the claimants had resolved boundary disputes. The Quandamooka People, represented by their elders and aided by lawyers and anthropologists, participated in a workshop in 2006 to resolve longstanding boundary disputes.

After this process the Quandamooka claims were prepared for hearing, which required the preparation and lodging of anthropological and archaeological material, as well as legal submissions and affidavits from elders.

2010
Stradbroke Island-Moreton Bay native title claim negotiations intensify

In January 2010 the Federal Court asked the National Native Title Tribunal to facilitate negotiations between the parties – the Queensland Government, various local governments and other interested organisations and individuals - with a view to reaching a consent determination on the native title rights of the Quandamooka People. Negotiations between the Quandamooka People, Queensland Government and other interested parties intensified, with a view to finalising Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs).
1. The State Government ILUA is signed
   – 15 June 2011

The Quandamooka Indigenous Land Use Agreement State of Queensland (the ILUA) was signed by Quandamooka elders and the Queensland Government on 15 June 2011.

2. Native Title determination handed down
   – July 2011

The Federal Court handed down a consent determination on 4 July 2011, which formally recognised, for the first time since colonisation, that the laws and customs of the Quandamooka People had survived in respect to their lands and waters (their Country) on and around North Stradbroke Island.

Orders and determination

In his determination of 4 July 2011, Justice Dowsett, of the Federal Court, said:

18. I find that the Quandamooka People are descended from a society of aboriginal people who were in occupation of the land and waters of the determination area at the time of first assertion of British sovereignty. Those people formed a society, united in and by their acknowledgment and observance of traditional laws and customs. Through the observance of these traditional laws and customs, the Quandamooka People have maintained a connection with the Determination Area. The proposed orders recognize that the Quandamooka People, as holders of native title in the determination area, are entitled to the exclusive use and enjoyment of the land and waters identified in Schedule 4 of the orders, and the non-exclusive use and enjoyment of the land and waters described in Schedule 5. The orders recognize, at Schedule 7, other interests in the determination area and the relationships of those interests to the native title interests.

19. Section 55 of the Act requires the Court to make a determination pursuant to either s 56 or s 57 of the Act. Proposed Order 11 provides that native title is not to be held in trust. Proposed Order 12 provides that the Quandamooka Yooloooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (ICN7564) be the prescribed body corporate for the purposes of s 57(2) of the Act and perform the functions set out in s 57(3). The applicant has nominated that corporation as the prescribed body corporate to perform the functions set out in the Act and the Native Title (Prescribed Bodies Corporate) Regulations 1999 (Cth), and for the other objects and purposes set out in its rules. The corporation was registered on 1 June 2011. On 20 June 2011, the applicant filed all relevant material, including submissions setting out the steps taken by the applicant to satisfy the requirements of s 57 of the Act.
20. I make the orders set out in the drafts which I now initial and place with the papers. Those orders recognize the Quandamooka People’s native title rights and interests within the Australian legal system and extend the protection of that system to those rights and interests.

21. I have not come here today to give anything to the Quandamooka people. These orders give them nothing. Rather, I come on behalf of all Australian people to recognize their existing rights and interests, which rights and interests have their roots in times before 1788, only some of which have survived European settlement. Those surviving rights and interests I now acknowledge. In so doing I bind all people for all time. This includes the Commonwealth of Australia, the State of Queensland, the Redlands City Council and the Brisbane City Council.

Significantly, in thus recognising the native title rights of the Quandamooka People, Justice Dowsett, also noted that:

The State of Queensland has, for the purposes of both applications, admitted that:

(a) a pre-sovereignty society existed and that there has been continuity from sovereignty to the present day;

(b) the Quandamooka People have maintained their connection and have connection with North Stradbroke Island and the surrounding waters but not with Peel Island, Bird Island, Goat Island and Lot 32 on Plan SL12751 in Cleveland;

(c) in respect of the sea part of the claim the Quandamooka People hold native title rights similar to those determined to exist in tidal waters in previous sea claims such as Yarmirr [1], Lardil [2] and Gumana [3].

12. Telstra Corporation Limited, Consolidated Rutile Limited, ACI Operations Pty Ltd, and the fishing parties have adopted the State’s admissions. The Redland City Council has made similar admissions.

3. State ILUA registered – December 2011

The Quandamooka-State of Queensland ILUA was registered by the National Native Title Tribunal on 8 December 2011, which makes it enforceable in the Federal Court.

Auntie Rosie Borey and Uncle Bob Anderson with former prime minister, Paul Keating, at QYAC’s inaugural annual general meeting, Dunwich Hall, 24 February 2013.

“What you need above all else is imagination to know that a place like Stradbroke can do better – particularly juxtapose a big city like Brisbane.”

Paul Keating, Dunwich, 24 February 2013
This first determination was the initial step in an ongoing process whereby the Quandamooka get determinations over all their traditional lands and waters around Moreton Bay.

To that end, in November last year the Quandamooka People lodged a claim in the Federal Court for a native title determination over Moorgumpin (Moreton Island) off Brisbane.

The claim, made under Australia's Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), is for legal recognition of native title over all non-freehold land above the high water mark on the island – see adjacent map.

Moreton Island – known as Moorgumpin (place of sand hills) to the Quandamooka People – is the third largest sand island in the world. It is a naturally-formed sand island, more than 19,000 hectares in size and surrounded by the Moreton Bay Marine Park.

In summary, this second claim seeks exclusive native title rights over small sections of unallocated State land on Moreton Island and non-exclusive rights over the rest. More than 90 per cent of Moreton Island/Moorgumpin is currently national park.

The claim will not impact on freehold land, as freehold extinguishes native title, or current leases with community groups.

In making the claim the Quandamooka assert:

(a) the native title claim group has, and the predecessors of those persons had, an association with the area; and

(b) there exist traditional laws and customs that give rise to the claimed native title; and

(c) the native title claim group has continued to hold the native title in accordance with those traditional laws and customs.

These are very early days for this claim, but QYAC is confident that, when the time comes, the Federal Court and all stakeholders in the process, including the State Government and Brisbane City Council, will look favourably on this claim and work with us to progress it.

As always, QYAC’s objective is to work cooperatively with everyone to secure another consent determination. QYAC has good relationships with the residents and community groups that live, own land or have leases on Moreton Island.

Nothing will change for those people as a result of this claim. QYAC supports the presence of community groups and other responsible organisations on the island. Amongst other things they also help us care for our ‘Country’ and value it as we do.

QYAC is already the registered cultural heritage body for Moorgumpin under the Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and has had Quandamooka people employed as National Parks rangers on the island for many years.
3. Conclusion

The initial native title determination of 4 July 2011 was a significant milestone for the Quandamooka People and also for the people of Queensland.

The achievement of a consent determination, after an exhaustive 16 year process, is a testament to the willingness of people of goodwill to work together for a better and fairer future for all Australians.

QYAC is committed to ensuring native title now builds a “glad tomorrow” for the Quandamooka People and all who share and enjoy Quandamooka “Country” and “Heritage”.

QYAC has developed a comprehensive strategic plan, and is working with all levels of government and other stakeholders, to ensure this happens. The QYAC strategic plan pays respect to the Quandamooka People’s proud past and gives hope for our strong future:

To our father’s father
The pain, the sorrow
To our children’s children
The glad tomorrow

- Oodgeroo Noonuccal

On behalf of the Quandamooka People, it seeks the assistance of the Queensland government and parliament with the issues outlined in the following pages and the support of all Queensland members of parliament to achieve the reasonable and just outcomes sought.
QUANDAMOOKA ENTERPRISE PRIORITIES

What Quandamooka People want!

- Providing for sport and recreation
- Providing general services to residents, businesses and the government
- Harnessing our native title rights

Educating and training people

- Providing products from the sea
- Constructing buildings and managing property

Managing the land and sea

- Providing transport and accommodation for tourists

Sharing our Quandamooka culture and heritage

Providing medical services and care

- Providing general services to residents, businesses and the government
- Using the island’s natural resources
- Island forestry and agriculture

Providing activities for tourists

Retail and supplies on the island
QUANDAMOOKA ISSUES

Current issues for your consideration
North Stradbroke Island mining laws

Throughout 2010, as part of the native title process outlined in the previous section of this briefing booklet, negotiations between the Quandamooka People, Queensland Government and other interested parties got underway in earnest, with a view to finalising Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs).

An ILUA is an agreement between a native title group and others about the use of land and waters. When registered, ILUAs bind all parties and all native title holders to the terms of the agreement. It can cover things like:

- native title holders agreeing to a future development;
- how native title rights coexist with the rights of other people;
- access to an area;
- extinguishment of native title;
- compensation;
- employment and economic opportunities for native title groups;
- cultural heritage; and
- mining.

The ILUA between the Quandamooka People and the State of Queensland - Quandamooka Indigenous Land Use Agreement State of Queensland (the ILUA) - was signed by Quandamooka elders and the Queensland Government on 15 June 2011, just prior to the 4 July native title determination. It was registered by the National Native Title Tribunal on 8 December 2011, which makes it enforceable in the Federal Court.

**The first 2011 NSIPSA implements the ILUA**

The first North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act (NSIPSA) was passed by the Bligh Government in April 2011 to implement the rights and obligations created in the ILUA, then being finalised between the State of Queensland and the Quandamooka People.

This Act facilitated the ending of mining at Yarraman Mine, as planned by Sibelco, in 2015 and the extension of mining, within a clearly defined mining path, at Enterprise Mine until 20 December 2019.

The Act also renewed Sibelco’s expired ML 1117, which makes up the bulk of the Enterprise Mine, without the company having to meet the normal requirements of the Queensland Mineral Resources Act.

At the conclusion of mining at each site full native title rights, as spelt out by the Federal Court determination, would revert to the Quandamooka People.

To maximise the benefits of these changes the following local plans and strategies were also being developed:

- North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy;
- Quandamooka Action Plan;
- North Stradbroke Island Indigenous Business Development Plan; and
- Quandamooka Aboriginal Community Plan.

There was an important relationship between the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011 and the plans listed above. The original 2011 Act paved the way for North Stradbroke Island to move beyond
a sand-mining economy to a more diversified and sustainable economy. This strategy, complemented by the plans listed above, is designed to help the Quandamooka People make this transition in a culturally and economically sustainable way.

The key point is, this first NSIPSA was an agreed outcome, based on a formal legal contract (the ILUA) with the State Government, consented to by the native title holders of the North Stradbroke Island land in question.

QYAC and the Quandamooka People could now plan the future within a clear framework.

However, it wasn’t to be.

The 2012 State election

By the end of 2011 QYAC and the Quandamooka People had a binding agreement – the ILUA – with the Queensland Government and there was legislation – the 2011 NSIPSA - in place supporting the content of that agreement.

However, the company that conducted most of the sand mining on North Stradbroke Island – Sibelco – wasn’t happy and it decided to try and use the approaching State election to secure a better deal for itself.

It ran a third party campaign - in the lead up to the 2012 State election - against the Bligh Government’s North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011, which had in fact, through legislation, renewed Sibelco’s expired ML 1117 to allow mining until 2019.

This campaign focused on the electorate of Ashgrove where former premier, Campbell Newman, was the Liberal National Party (LNP) candidate and the former Labor environment minister, Kate Jones, was the sitting ALP member.

Public relations and political lobbying firm, Rowland, was a major adviser to Sibelco on this campaign, which it later boasted was “extremely successful and the overall goal exceeded”. The overall goal being the extension of sand mining until 2027, while the “newly-elected (LNP) government committed to extending sand mining operations to 2035”.

(Source: Rowland. Achieving social, environmental and economic progress in an island community: sand mining and its benefits on North Stradbroke Island.)

Campbell Newman and the LNP made an election commitment to change aspects of the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011 so that Sibelco could apply to continue sand mining, especially at Enterprise Mine, beyond the end dates contained in the 2011 Act.

For example, Campbell Newman said this on Steve Austin’s program, ABC Radio Brisbane, 20 January 2012:
“… we’re (the LNP) saying that the government (Bligh Labor government) shouldn’t have, in a unilateral and capricious way, come in over the last 12 months and it was all about green preferences, come in and actually curtail mining in terms of what was permitted under the leases. We believe there should be a proper orderly run out of those leases.”

A bit further on in the same interview:

“We will allow, we will (sic) the mine to proceed in the way that it was originally allowed to prior to the actions of the last 18 months.”

No LNP representatives held any negotiations with the native title holders – the Quandamooka People - prior to this announcement and no consent was received from the Quandamooka People to break the contract – the ILUA - they already had with the Queensland Government.

QYAC also believes the people of Queensland, especially those in the Ashgrove electorate, were misled about the nature of this issue. It was characterised by those campaigning against the 2011 Act as a Labor pitch for Greens preferences, when, in fact, those campaigning against the 2011 Act were proposing to tear up a legal agreement between the State of Queensland and the Quandamooka People. On behalf of the Quandamooka People QYAC corrected the public record in the Ashgrove electorate, via a letterbox drop, during the 2015 election campaign.

Post-election negotiations and discussions

1. Sibelco and the State Government

According to Sibelco’s campaign consultants, Rowland, there was considerable interaction between Sibelco, its agents and the new LNP State Government:

Post-election engagement with key ministers, and the government’s establishment of a working group to develop new policy and legislation followed this early endorsement. Following the election, the new Minister for Mines and Natural Resources announced an extension to operations until 2035.

(Source: Rowland. Achieving social, environmental and economic progress in an island community: sand mining and its benefits on North Stradbroke Island)

2. Quandamooka People seek involvement, but are constantly rebuffed

In the post-election period the Quandamooka People regularly sought to hold discussions with the State Government about its policy on North Stradbroke Island and were regularly rebuffed.

The State Government continued to aggressively pursue its sand-mining extension policy, without the consent of the Quandamooka People. For example, Campbell Newman again makes his position clear in November 2012 (Hansard 20 November 2012):

All we are saying here is that the mining will continue in accordance with the original leases that were granted to the mining company. That is all that we are doing.

That led to very clear statements prior to the election that we would, if we were elected, allow mining to continue in accordance with the original mining leases. We said that prior to the election. It was very clearly stated. That is what we campaigned on.

Despite the campaign where very clearly everyone knew I was saying that it would
continue in accordance with the original leases till 2035 and the Labor Party and the Greens were saying it was going to continue forever, what was the decision of the people of Ashgrove?

So, again, in summary, for those opposite who are hard of hearing, the people of Queensland voted knowing what we stood for in relation to Stradbroke Island, the people of Ashgrove knew what we stood for in relation to Stradbroke Island and the people of Stradbroke Island voted for what we stood for - which was mining continuing in accordance with original mining leases on Stradbroke Island.

I am not suggesting that it would be done differently, but I am suggesting in the case of Stradbroke Island, where mining has occurred for 64 years, simply going forward to 2035 in accordance with the mining leases as originally handed down is an appropriate and prudent thing to do.

The 2013 NSIPSA

– ILUA broken; Quandamooka sidelined

The North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013 was introduced to State Parliament in October 2013 to, according to the State Government:

• enable Sibelco to seek a renewal of mining leases in 2019 at the Enterprise Mine until 2035;
• remove the restricted mine path and non-winning condition over part of the Enterprise Mine and consequently replacing the environmental authority; and
• provide for an opportunity to renew mining leases associated with Yarraman Mine and Enterprise Mine until 2020 and 2040 respectively with a non-winning condition for the last five years.

The bill was referred to the State Parliament’s Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee.

The Quandamooka People made a written submission and gave verbal evidence at public hearings in October 2013, in an attempt to again protect their rights as the native title holders over various areas affected by the amendments proposed in the Bill.

The parliamentary committee reporting into this Bill agreed that government had not consulted the Quandamooka People (at page 23). It was a clear breach of the legislative standard of having regard to Aboriginal tradition, section 4(3)(k) of the Legislative Standards Act 1992(QLD).

The Bill passed the Legislative Assembly on 20 November 2013 and became the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Act 2013. A range of matters previously agreed between the Queensland Government and the Quandamooka People were changed without the consent of the Quandamooka People.

The 2013 legislation also threatens to undermine and destabilise the national native title system, by establishing the precedent of using State legislation to overrule binding agreements/contracts between native title stakeholders.

What can the new Queensland parliament do?

Repeal the 2013 NSIPSA

The new Queensland parliament has the opportunity to rescind the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Act 2013 and restore the rights of the Quandamooka People, respect the agreement between the State of Queensland and the Quandamooka People and restore certainty to the native title/ILUA process.

The Quandamooka People have challenged the 2013 Act in the High Court and that is ongoing.
However, the best course of action is for the Queensland parliament to repeal the 2013 Act and acknowledge that agreements should be honoured and traditional land owners treated with respect.

QYAC asks that you support the repeal of the *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Act 2013* and that you urge the State Government to introduce the repeal legislation as a matter of priority so it is passed before the end of 2015.

The repeal of this legislation is a Palaszczuk Government election commitment. As stated earlier there was an important relationship between the original *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011* and the following plans and strategies:

- North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy;
- Quandamooka Action Plan;
- North Stradbroke Island Indigenous Business Development Plan; and
- Quandamooka Aboriginal Community Plan.

So it is important to get this issue back on track as soon as possible.
Justice for One Mile residents – housing and infrastructure improvements

Many Quandamooka families reside at a settlement known as the One Mile, just north of Dunwich on North Stradbroke Island (NSI). In fact, in 2015 there are estimated to be nearly 130 Quandamooka people living at One Mile. (See adjacent maps)

The area is crown land subject to the Federal Court’s native title determination of 4 July 2011.

The One Mile settlement exists as a result of the long and difficult interaction between the traditional owners of North Stradbroke Island and European colonisers, which started almost immediately upon the establishment of the Moreton Bay penal settlement in the 1820s.

The history of this interaction and North Stradbroke Island in general has been well documented by numerous historians and others and is readily available for anyone wanting more information.

The key European institution linked to the One Mile settlement was the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, which was established by the Queensland Government in 1866 and then closed in 1946-47.

Virtually from its inception the Queensland Government used the Aboriginal people of Moreton Bay as cheap labour for the Benevolent Asylum. In the 1890s an Aboriginal “mission” was established at Myora to the north of Dunwich, with many of the residents working at the asylum.

The State of Queensland benefited significantly for many decades from the use of this cheap Quandamooka labour at its Benevolent Asylum at Dunwich. It was not until the 1940s that award wages were paid to Aboriginal workers at the asylum and then they only got to enjoy this achievement for a few years before the asylum was moved to Sandgate.

(From Goodall, J.B, Whom Nobody Owns: The Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, An Institutional Biography 1866-1946, PhD thesis, University of Qld, 1992.)
Prior to the achievement of award wages in 1944 the Quandamooka workers were paid a combination of cash and rations and the total value was below the award wage. At these discounted rates they worked in the dairy, milking the cows twice a day, piggery and pumping station, cut and carted the firewood, unloaded and loaded boats from the mainland and did most other heavy work required around the facility. The Myora/One Mile workers clearly made a major financial contribution to Queensland.

By the 1920s and 30s a few Quandamooka started building houses closer to the facility, at One Mile. With virtually all the able-bodied Myora residents working at Dunwich by the 1930s it was decided in
early 1942 to close Myora and include the Aboriginal reserve as part of the Dunwich asylum reserve. So the remaining Myora residents and their houses – mostly made of discarded timber and iron from the asylum - were moved to the One Mile by the Department of Native Affairs in 1943.

From the start government/asylum officials recognised there were problems with the haphazard way One Mile was settled, with no planning, no infrastructure provision and poor quality housing. Things got worse when the asylum was closed a few years later and the Quandamooka employees lost their jobs.

In the 1950s and 1960s when septic, electricity and water were supplied to residents on North Stradbroke Island, One Mile was excluded. For a long period from the mid-1940s to 1964, the Office of Director of Native Affairs, the Land Administration Board/Commission, the Department of Lands and the Department of Public works considered various proposals from the Quandamooka People to improve tenure and conditions and even constructed dwellings at One Mile. However, they declined to install basic public infrastructure, including clean water, sewage, roads, storm water drainage and electricity.

In 2015 these inadequate conditions continue for the residents of One Mile. This is clearly unacceptable in the 21st century. Many residents of One Mile have done a good job of providing such services for themselves, but the ongoing failure to provide the basic infrastructure, which is provided to other residents of North Stradbroke Island, is inequitable.

The rectification of this injustice is a priority for QYAC and the Quandamooka People. QYAC’s thinking on the issue is quite advanced and formal engagement has commenced with the State Government and Redland City Council. In fact:

QYAC’s vision is that the residents of One Mile are living in a comfortable residential area with access to all essential services, at low or negative cost to them and government, and One Mile is a safe, healthy place to bring up future generations of Quandamooka People. There are no offsite impacts from this residential area. The existing bush feel of One Mile is retained and enhanced by encouraging native plants with low fire risk to grow.

To facilitate this vision QYAC is developing various financial, town planning and housing options for the improvement of living conditions at One Mile, with a view to it being a model for future Quandamooka housing on North Stradbroke Island.

However, the State Government and Redland City Council also both have a responsibility to ensure there is equitable access to basic infrastructure such as clean water, sewage, electricity and waste management.

Therefore, QYAC is seeking your support for the necessary funding to ensure One Mile residents have access to essential infrastructure services such as clean water, sewage, electricity and waste management by 2017. Preliminary estimates have costed this at about $20 million. QYAC is committed to working with the State Government and Redland City Council to try and reduce or partially offset this cost, without compromising the quality of the services.
Award wages at last: Quandamooka employees at the Benevolent Asylum finally get award wages in 1944. A few years earlier they were brought from Myora to live at One Mile, where nearly 130 Quandamooka still reside in 2015.
North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy

As stated previously, the first *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act* (NSIPSA) was passed by the Bligh Government in April 2011 to implement the rights and obligations created in the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), finalised between the State of Queensland and the Quandamooka People in 2011 in response to the Federal Court’s native title determination of 4 July 2011.

This Act was passed with the consent of the traditional owners of North Stradbroke Island and as the explanatory memorandum to the Act said, the measures adopted in the Act were:

“…reasonable, proportionate, and appropriate, because they resolve, or provide frameworks for the resolution of, the interconnected issues of mining, Aboriginal land rights, and the environment on NSI in ways that balance the impacts on each stakeholder.”

As the explanatory memorandum also says, the 2011 legislation created:

“…a clear timetable for the end of sand mining on the island, and the need to start planning a transition towards a more economical and environmentally sustainable use of the land through, for example, nature based tourism, education, and recreation.”

Also:

“…a unique opportunity presents itself to start planning this transition, and for the protection, rehabilitation and enhancement of the significant natural and cultural values of the Region. Creating a mine-free NSI will greatly assist the development and growth of businesses and employment opportunities in ecologically sustainable tourism and other like activities.”

The Quandamooka People also supported the Act because it sought to:

“…affirm and support both the Quandamooka People’s ongoing connection to the land, and their desire to see it protected and preserved, in a way that will also lead to economic, social and cultural development opportunities for the Quandamooka People.”

Along with the legislation, the Bligh Government also allocated $27.5 million over five years for the implementation of the NSI strategy. This budget included the establishment and joint management of protected areas in the NSI region, and funding and implementing the State ILUA with the Quandamooka People.

However, when the Newman Government amended the Act, without consulting the Quandamooka People, to allow for extended mining on NSI, it also withdraw most of this funding. This left NSI and its traditional owners without a firm commitment to resourcing the inevitable economic transition on the island.

QYAC and other stakeholders on North Stradbroke Island continue to work on identifying and developing the economic potential of the island, to create jobs. However, this work has been hampered by the withdrawal of more than $20 million in promised funding by the Newman Government.

North Stradbroke Island is the second largest sand island in the world and only 30 kms from Brisbane. Its timeless beauty, magnificent
beaches, outstanding ocean and bay views and enduring Quandamooka cultural heritage have enormous economic potential if it can be harnessed in a sensitive, sustainable way.

In a recent Business Opportunities Analysis QYAC identified the following options for Quandamooka Country, including North Stradbroke Island.

Activities for tourists on the island

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Adventure tourism and water sports school business</strong></td>
<td>Providing tourists, school and business groups with adventures such as diving, surfing, quad bike tours, mountain biking, triathlons, skydiving, ropes courses etc. Could including equipment hire, lessons, guides, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Air tours and transport business</strong></td>
<td>Air tours of Quandamooka Country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>‘Experiencing Quandamooka’ guided cultural and eco-tour business</strong></td>
<td>4x4 island tours, horses, guided walks, bush tucker, indigenous hunting, self-guided tours, making and throwing boomerangs, boiled cornmeal lunches, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Regional visitor hub business - one stop shop for tourists and educators coming to Straddie</strong></td>
<td>Providing customers and bookings for various tourist services (including activities and accommodation). The business model for this could involve taking a cut of bookings in exchange for whole of Quandamooka’ marketing, thus the paying customers for this business would be tourist operators and accommodation providers. Additional funding support could be gained from other sources e.g. government grants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>‘Take tourists fishing’ business</strong></td>
<td>Fishing charters, education in Aboriginal fishing methods.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Transport and ‘island equipment’ hire business</strong></td>
<td>Hire of all kinds of equipment that tourists may not already have e.g. 4WDs, cars, scooters, kayaks, pushbikes, surfboards, wetsuits, fishing equipment, kite surfing, catamarans, etc. Lessons in various activities are an obvious addition to this business.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Whale and dugong watching &amp; sea-based eco-tourism business</strong></td>
<td>Boat and land-based whale, dolphin, dugong watching. Could include glass-bottom boats, kayak tours and be a complete service, picking up tourists from mainland in branded 4WDs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Yacht and houseboat hire business</strong></td>
<td>Private yacht and houseboat hire. Sailing lessons could also be part of the offer of this business, servicing mainly tourists.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Constructing buildings and managing property

| 9. | **Business focussed on appropriate building and technology solutions for remote living** | Helping to meet the needs for affordable, but compliant, housing by developing a knowledge base around the development of new buildings on Country and the upgrading of existing housing to comply with regulatory codes. |
| 10. | **Joinery/cabinet-making business** | Joinery services to local building construction and property management. |
| 11. | **Property development business** | Providing property development services to investors, government and locals e.g. application processes for land and housing, project management. |
| 12. | **Property management services business (e.g. maintaining govt housing handed over to QYAC)** | Property management services to islanders and local businesses. Could include the ownership of property handed over to QYAC by previous owners e.g. land council, State and federal governments. |

## Education and training

| 13. | **Indigenous boarding and day school (primary and possibly secondary)** | Something potentially similar to the school near Cairns that Cape York Partnerships has taken over. Could be in partnership with another education organisation. Could be primary or secondary or both. |
| 14. | **Leadership and aspirations training business for young people** | Business that runs programmes for primary and secondary kids to help raise their aspirations, set goals and realise their potential. Could include outdoor experiential learning, as well as academic tutoring and coaching services. |
| 15. | **Ranger training business** | Supplying government or privately-funded ranger training via a ranger training centre. Could have accommodation and conference facilities. The training centre may be best co-located with the proposed Quandamooka Research and Training Centre (Dunwich Adult Education Campus). |
| 16. | **RTO business to teach trades and skills needed for local jobs** | Provision of training services particularly relevant to Quandamooka Country e.g. land and sea management. |
| 17. | **University (or branch) with indigenous focus** | Partnership with an Australian university to capitalise on Australia’s journey toward indigenous understanding. |
### Forestry and agriculture

**18. **Bush-tucker plantation and production business  
Business focussed on production of bush-tucker foods.

**19. **Carbon farming business  
Selling carbon offsets generated from the management of existing vegetation in the context of a future carbon trading economy. Support is available to Indigenous Australians who are interested in participating in the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) through the Indigenous Carbon Farming Fund ($22.3 million over five years from 2012). University of Queensland has already expressed an interest in the purchase of carbon offsets from the Island.

**20. **Flowers and wildflowers production business  
Flower collection and production for local and mainland flower markets.

**21. **Honey production business  
Hives and honey production and marketing facilities. Providing honey and other bee products to local and mainland businesses.

**22. **Nursery  
Supplier of plants to local and mainland customers including businesses, QPWS, RCC, mines rehab and the private market.

**23. **Organic farming business(es)  
Developing agriculture or horticulture primary industry on Quandamooka Country.

**24. **Tree-farming and milling (forestry) business  
Plantations and milling of timber on Quandamooka land e.g. cypress, blackbutt.

### Harnessing our new native title rights

**25. **National park access fees  
Permits to access national parks on Country.

**26. **Permits for access to native title sea areas for commercial fishing companies  
Depending on the outcome of the latest native title claim on sea areas.
Managing the land and sea

27. **Culturally aligned land and sea management and consulting services business**

Supplying a range of land and sea management and rehabilitation services including pest and waste control, as well as consulting services to QYAC, as well as government and businesses on and off the island.

28. **Mining rehabilitation business**

Harnessing local knowledge and expertise to provide a range of rehabilitation services to mining operations on the island.

Providing for sport and recreation

29. **Sports and fitness activities business**

Providing tourists and locals with access to various sports and fitness activities on the island e.g. tennis, football, swimming pool, etc.

Providing general services to residents, businesses and government

30. **Accommodation services business**

Provision of services to all kinds of accommodation businesses e.g. cleaning, linen hire, laundry and ironing, etc.

31. **Accounting and clerical services business**

Providing services to local businesses.

32. **Boat building, maintenance and services business**

Servicing local and mainland boaties and businesses.

33. **Catering business**

Providing catering services to local events and businesses. A focus on bush-tucker and locally sourced foods could also open mainland markets.
| 34. | Childcare business | Providing childcare and basic education support (e.g. homework) for children on Country. |
| 35. | Funeral services business | Providing funeral services to the Quandamooka diaspora, but also anyone wanting to be buried on the island. |
| 36. | Gardening and landscaping business | Servicing the local and mainland public and business markets. Could develop an expert focus on ‘sandy soils’. |
| 37. | Legal and contract management services business | Providing services to local businesses. |
| 38. | Marketing and business development consulting business (especially for incubating and servicing indigenous businesses) | Provision of a range of services to existing local businesses, entrepreneurial start-ups and mainland businesses wanting to come to Quandamooka Country. Services could include advice (governance, marketing, supply chain, joint ventures, etc) strategic links to investors and business support organisations, management training and harnessing of Quandamooka ILUA privileges e.g. preferred supplier status for government contracts. |
| 39. | Mechanic business | Providing mechanical services to islanders and local businesses (including mining) for cars, trucks and other mechanical equipment used on the island. |
| 40. | Security business | Provision of security services to islanders and local businesses. Could include secure parking near ferry terminals. |
| 41. | Signage business | Signage manufacture - including functional and interpretive signs for local businesses and government. |
| 42. | Trade equipment hire and supplies business(es) | Supplying trade supplies and equipment to local businesses and mining operations e.g. concrete, timber, plant and tool hire. |
| 43. | Trades and construction business(es) | Provision of a range of services needed by islanders, local government contracts and local businesses e.g. plumbing, building maintenance, construction, electrical, planning, metal fabrication, etc. |
| 44. | Venue hire and event management business (perhaps with an indigenous focus e.g. run indigenous conferences) | Venue and event management for large events e.g. markets, shows, carnivals, weddings, functions, corporate events. The business would service locals, but also mainland businesses and entertainment organisations looking for event venues. Could include the development of a large events precinct on lands opposite Adams Beach in Dunwich. |
| 45. | Waste management and remediation business | Servicing government contracts and local businesses and public with waste removal and management services. Could also include motorhome waste stations. |
The rich Aboriginal history of North Stradbroke Island centres around Dunwich, home of the Quandamooka People.

The Goompi Trail is a historical walk with a local Aboriginal guide, which takes participants on a leisurely one hour walk along the foreshore of Dunwich overlooking beautiful Moreton Bay.

It is a good example of the new business activity being developed on North Stradbroke Island.

Visitors learn about Aboriginal artefacts, traditional hunting methods, bush tucker, medicines, traditional ochres and see the remnants of an old rock fish trap.

A new business example

Providing medical services and care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46.</td>
<td>Animal care centre</td>
<td>Animal hospital, veterinary and kennel services (for locals and tourists), wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47.</td>
<td>Health and medical services centre</td>
<td>Range of professional medical and health services including GP, respite, dental, physio, counselling, etc., servicing islanders and local businesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.</td>
<td>‘Indigenous Spa’ - traditional and alternative therapies business</td>
<td>Providing both remedial and luxury spa services including massage, indigenous therapies and treatments, etc., to public - locals and mainlanders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.</td>
<td>Retirement and aged care facility</td>
<td>Aged care facilities to cater to an increasing demand from locals and mainlanders. A mainstream retirement village and graded aged care facility could complement the existing Moopi Moopi Pa facility.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Providing products from the sea

| 50. | **Aquaculture business using existing Cleveland fish farming facility** | QYAC is already in discussion with the government regarding the existing, disused Cleveland facility. |
| 51. | **Aquaculture business using existing oyster farming leases and equipment** | Oyster production has a long history on the island and continues today. In fact, the Quandamooka were the original oyster farmers. |
| 52. | **Commercial fishing business** | Aboriginal owned and run commercial fishing business, potentially leveraging native title sea rights. |
| 53. | **Fishing bait production business** | Land and/or sea based bait production for sale to businesses or public. |
| 54. | **New aquaculture business e.g. prawns, Beche de Mer** | Utilising Quandamooka’s historical strength in sea-farming to develop new initiatives such as a seafood cooperative. |
| 55. | **Seafood processing business** | Processing plant for local seafood production, servicing wholesale/retail food-based businesses on and off the island. |

### Providing transport and accommodation for tourists

| 56. | **Bed and Breakfasts** | Mid-range tourist accommodation with ‘island hospitality’. |
| 57. | **Eco-resort** | Tourist accommodation and arrangement of various tourist activities. Could have facilities targeted at different levels of the market, from camping to high-end, and service tourists, organisations seeking conference venues and education organisations. |
| 58. | **New camping grounds** | Additional places to camp on the island (particularly ‘on Country’). Could include rehabilitated sand mining areas, a focus on school camps. |

QYAC has attracted $7.6 million investment into this Straddie Camping business, using the funds to refurbish the campgrounds and extend services. Annual income from the holiday parks has almost doubled in recent years and there has been strong growth in 4WD beach driving permit sales.

The business has also been awarded a number of Queensland tourism awards, including a best campground in QLD award.
Retail and supplies

59. 4WD food van business/mobile or semi-permanent cafes

4WD food vans to service worksites, events, beaches and campgrounds at peak tourism periods e.g. back-beach near causeway, town based campgrounds.

60. Bushtucker restaurant

Indigenous restaurant owned and served by Aboriginal people, serving nature foods, fish and local produce.

61. Cafe and small terminal facility to service the One Mile jetty commuters

Providing supplies to people travelling to and from the island - captive audience as they wait for the ferry.

62. Fresh seafood supply business

Retail and wholesale supply of seafood to the public, as well as food-based businesses on and off the island.

63. Recycling outlet - tip shop

Provision of recycled items to the local market.

64. Tourist café near hub for tourists

Café services for tourists co-located with a key tourist hub e.g. welcoming centre to the island.

Sharing our Quandamooka culture and heritage

65. Cultural education centre

An organisation or centre that provides cultural products and services based on Quandamooka heritage and assets e.g. performances, story sharing, art and craft activities and sales, museum, educational experiences/classes, and, potentially, educational material for mainland educational organisations. This centre is likely to leverage government agreement in the Redland City Council ILUA to support the development of a cultural centre to help Quandamooka People retain and develop their culture and history, and provide community support. Location could be the surf club at Point Lookout (via a land swap).

66. Indigenous art centre selling art, framing and educational experiences

Art sales & framing, indigenous art education for general public and education organisations. Could include extending reach by having other areas and places where Quandamooka art is displayed - hotels, restaurants, government buildings, etc.
**Transport services**

| 67. | Island bus services business | Could include 4WD transport services to beach campsites and tours, as well as regular bus services on the island. |
| 68. | New water taxi business | Water taxi services to complement existing ferry services could operate out of normal hours, pick up and deliver from non-standard destinations and service niche markets. |
| 69. | Take over barge/ferry services | This was an opportunity on the cards some time ago. No opportunity is currently evident. |

**Using the islands minerals and resources**

| 70. | Alternative energy production company (wind, solar, etc.) | Partnership with energy companies to develop electricity generation or distribution facilities on Quandamooka Country. |
| 71. | Neutraceuticals (native plant based medicines) business | Supplying native plant based medicines and ingredients to islanders, mainlanders and, potentially, mainland pharmaceuticals and retail businesses. |
| 72. | Water bottling company | Leveraging the island’s high quality water to supply locally and throughout Australia. |

It is clear from this extensive list that there is the potential for a massive return on any investment the State Government makes in assisting the island’s economic transition.

The Quandamooka People already have a number of very successful business ventures underway on NSI, including the award winning Straddie Camping and QYAC’s Cultural Heritage consulting, training and monitoring business. (See boxes in this section.)

It should also be noted that the challenges of economic change and transition are not new to the Quandamooka People. For example, the arrival of Europeans completely disrupted the traditional Quandamooka economy and society.

Then when the State Government closed down the Benevolent Asylum in the 1940s many Quandamooka lost work. Many took up oyster farming and fishing opportunities, but were severely hampered by the lack of an economic transition plan at that time.

QYAC and the Quandamooka People are up to this latest challenge and with the benefit of the native title determination are actually looking forward to it.

QYAC also believes the Quandamooka People, as the traditional owners of NSI and the group with the most extensive long term commitment to the island, should lead the process.

QYAC therefore asks you to support the restoration of more than $20 million in State Government funding, over five years, for a NSI Economic Transition Strategy, so NSI can transition to an eco-cultural tourism destination with QYAC chairing the process.
Joint management of Naree Budjong Djara National Park

The Quandamooka People have consented to large sections of their land on North Stradbroke Island being set aside as national park – the Naree Budjong Djara National Park - for the benefit of all Queenslanders and the enjoyment of all residents and visitors to the island.

At present about 50 per cent of the island is national park and when mining is finished that will grow to about 80 per cent.

As agent for the native title holders QYAC jointly manages, with the State Government, the Naree Budjong Djara National Park on North Stradbroke Island under an Indigenous Management Agreement.

The joint management arrangement is meant to ensure the Quandamooka can manage their lands, there is employment of Quandamooka rangers and the park is developed as an eco-tourism destination. As part of the arrangement the State Government, through its Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service within the Department of Environment and Resource Management, was providing $2 million per annum for joint management of Naree Budjong Djara. This included funding for the joint manager’s position at QYAC. The initial contract/funding ran from December 2011 until December 2014.

However, when this first round of funding expired in December 2014 the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service unilaterally decided not to renew the funding, including funding for the joint manager role. This was in clear breach of the Indigenous Joint Management Agreement (IJMA), which requires collaboration between the joint managers on budgets, including collaboration on budget expenditure towards labour, capital infrastructure and operations.

A major component of the IJMA budget is also to be contractual arrangements negotiated with QYAC.

Joint management of Quandamooka Country: Quandamooka’s Jacob Martin, at a Green Army Day on North Stradbroke Island.
This snub to the Quandamooka People, when seen in the context of the cuts to the economic transition budget and the unilateral amendments to the mining laws, indicate the rights of the Quandamooka People have not been taken seriously by the State Government over the last couple of years.

In terms of the QPWS specifically, QYAC is of the view that the decision making processes have been standard operational QPWS decision making for its State owned parks, and do not reflect or allow for indigenous joint management in accordance with the Indigenous Joint Management Agreement.

The QPWS does not seem to understand that the nature of its joint management relationship with the Quandamooka People is now very different as a result of the 2011 native title determination. QYAC believes the unilateral language still often used by QPWS officials shows that QPWS has not acted on its obligations under the IJMA to cooperate, collaborate, use best endeavours, or work together. Certainly there was no consultation with the QYAC regarding ongoing funding for the effective joint management of Quandamooka lands set aside as national park.

The Quandamooka People have provided the land, the least the State of Queensland can do is provide some funding for its joint management.

Therefore, QYAC asks that you ensure the State Government continues funding the $2 million per annum necessary for joint management of Naree Budjong Djara National Park, which is on Quandamooka land. QYAC also asks that you ensure the funds are dedicated in future QPWS budgets over five years and that they are delivered in accordance with the Indigenous Joint Management Agreement, including continuity of the joint manager position at QYAC.

Support QYAC

Quandamooka monitoring seagrass on North Stradbroke Island.
The Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation

acknowledges that we operate and function on the lands of the Quandamooka People.

We pay our respect to these lands that provide for us.

We acknowledge and pay respect to the ancestors
who walked and managed these lands for many generations.

We acknowledge our elders who are our knowledge holders, teachers and pioneers.

We acknowledge our youth who are our hope for a brighter future
and who will be our future leaders.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to our members who have gone before us
and recognise their contribution to our people and community.