1. The Bill amends a number of pieces of legislation, primarily the *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011* (NSIPS Act), to reinstate the substantive phase out of sand mining on North Stradbroke Island by 2019 and protect the natural environment.
2. The NSIPS Act regulates mining activity at the three remaining mines on the island - Enterprise, Yarraman and Vance. The original legislation expired the mining leases at the end of 2019 for Enterprise Mine, 2015 for Yarraman Mine, and 2025 for Vance Mine, and did not permit the mining leases for Enterprise and Yarraman to be renewed.
3. Amendments to the NSIPS Act which commenced in 2014 removed the original restriction on the mine path at Enterprise and allowed for mining lease renewals.
4. The Bill reinstates a restricted mine path at Enterprise Mine.
5. The Bill removes the ability to renew the mining leases for mining or rehabilitation purposes. The Bill cancels the Yarraman lease 12 months after commencement of the legislation
6. However, after mining has ceased, the sites must be rehabilitated adequately to a safe, stable and non-polluting form that can support future uses in accordance with the environmental authority (EA) under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act).
7. Therefore this Bill includes amendments to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* to allow the chief executive to authorise land access to EA holders where a mining lease has expired or ended, enabling them to undertake rehabilitation or environmental management activities as conditioned under their EA.
8. The Bill also includes a minor consequential amendment to the EP Act which will clarify the definition of ‘holder’ so there is no doubt that the EA can be used in the way it is intended. This amendment will have broader benefits as it removes all doubt that an EA holders’ responsibilities endure until the EA is surrendered and the EA’s applicability and enforceability is not dependent on having an active tenure.
9. The Bill includes a minor amendment to the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999* to ensure that the health and safety aspects of the mine site rehabilitation activity will continue to be managed under that Act.
10. The Bill is part of a larger initiative to support the transition of North Stradbroke Island. The Government has committed up to $20 million over five years towards an economic transition strategy for North Stradbroke Island.
11. Cabinet approved that the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
12. *Attachments*
* [North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)
* [Restricted mine path map ‘NSI 3’](Attachments/Map.PDF)