

Islanders fear for jobs



DAYS NUMBERED: North Stradbroke Island's sand mine is to make way for a national park but indigenous land owners say it provides them with work.

Straddie mine workers unimpressed by Bligh park plan

Brian Williams
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

NORTH Stradbroke Island's residents remained confused yesterday after the State Government's weekend announcement that mining would end, but not for a further 17 years.

A Quandamooka traditional owner who declined to be named said mining companies had employed generations of Murrts and he wondered what

benefit his people would gain from national parks.

"(Premier Anna) Bligh came over and made a grand offer on national parks but who asked her to do that?" he said.

"It's just another stunt to get the green vote. My family heritage is in mining. My grandfather and father worked in the mines on Straddie and now I work for Santos.

"Do a wage comparison on national parks and mining and

see which one you'd like to work for."

Ms Bligh said by phasing out mining, the island would evolve from an industrial site to an eco-tourism showcase.

More than half the island would be declared within the next 18 months.

Stradbroke Island Management Organisation spokesman woman Jackie Cooper said it was a huge step forward, having 80 per cent of the island

proposed as national park. "But as yet the details are not clear," Ms Cooper said.

"This is all about the indigenous population. It's incredibly significant that on the doorstep of Brisbane we will have a large national park jointly managed by the indigenous community that lives on their land. I can't think of a more positive form of reconciliation."

Sustainability Minister Kate Jones said at least 400 jobs

were expected to be created. Unimim spokesman Paul Smith said it was unclear what the Government proposed for his company's mining leases.

"We're meeting with (Mines Department) to find out what on earth it means," he said. Conservation groups congratulated the Government in a joint statement.

"This will be an asset for the people of Queensland to enjoy for future generations," it said.

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APOLOGY

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Vandals smash 314 windows

MORE than 300 windows have been smashed in the worst vandalism at a Queensland school this year.

Police were called to Beerwah State High School in the Sunshine Coast hinterland about midnight on Sunday when neighbours were woken by the sounds of breaking glass.

Officers found 314 windows broken in six buildings housing 16 classrooms and the performing arts centre.

Two 15-year-old boys located nearby were yesterday assisting police with their inquiries.

Acting principal Glenn McIntosh said the school was fitted with security cameras, but not in the area where the damage was done.

School parent Cathy Cope said she was past being angry after surveying the damage to half the school. "I'm sad, hurt and disappointed," Ms Cope said.

"It has caused disruption, but the whole school's pulled together to overcome this."

Education Queensland spends more than \$4 million a year on school security. Vandalism is estimated to cost in excess of \$2.5 million, not including arson attacks.

Robyn Ironside

Tangled web for cyber police

Michael Madigan
IN CANBERRA

A NEW team of cyber cops could soon monitor online crooks as the Federal Government warns ordinary Australians against the rising danger of computer criminals.

A year-long parliamentary inquiry has found computer crime has advanced from teen hackers to an "industrial scale".

"The cyber criminal is no longer the nuisance hacker motivated by the desire to show off their technical prowess," the Hackers, Fraudsters and Botnets - Tackling the Problem of Cyber Crime report found.

Cyber criminals were now likely to be part of a loosely linked network of hackers, middlemen and organised criminals all working to commit large-scale online crime for significant profit.

"Cyber crime is now a sophisticated transnational threat that operates on an industrial scale and has become an increasingly important issue for the global community."

The report's major recommendations include developing:

- A law-enforcement training facility for investigating cyber crime.

- A national reporting facility geared to consumers and medium-sized businesses.

- An office of online security headed by a cyber security co-ordinator and housed in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The report by the Standing Committee on Communications found Australia must develop a national approach.

"The injection of home computers, compromised websites, fake sites, online scams and fraud have all become a very significant problem," committee chair Belinda Neal said.

The report, which also recommends a 24-hour cyber crime reporting facility, said the attacks on computers were spread by compromised machines to "botnets" often controlled by offshore criminals.

It warned that thousands of compromised computers were detected every day by the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

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