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LIVELIHOOD: John Flynn, Tony Brown and workmates at the Dunwich loading facility.

Pictures: Rob Maccoll

Stradbroke locals take up fight for mines

Alex Dickinson

THE price of travelling to and staying on Stradbroke Island could triple if the Greens succeed in closing sand mines, residents and local business owners say.

Unimin Australia, which operates two mines on Stradbroke, heavily subsidises barges and fuel used by tourists while helping to fund infrastructure.

"It would destroy us," said Peter Jones, 59, who owns the only two bakeries on Stradbroke. "I employ 16 people currently and if mining left I'd be flat out employing five. Unimin leave and the economy of the island will crumble."

The Greens on Monday said they would use their possible balance of power in the Senate to amend mineral laws, blocking the export of sand from the



island. The State Government has announced sand mining will be phased out by 2027 and 80 per cent of the island converted to national park.

Unimin Australia spokesman Paul Smith said the mines spent millions with barge companies and bought 80 per cent of fuel shipped to the island.

JOBS:

Danielle Myers, with sons Johnathan and Bayden, relies on mining work.

job. We'd be broke," she said.

Christine Moyle, who is heavily involved in native title negotiations on Stradbroke, said the mine was invaluable to the indigenous community.

"More than 50 Aboriginal families have a direct pay packet from the industry and I challenge any of the Greens to drive around this township and say if they've seen better quality of housing for indigenous Australians anywhere in Australia," Ms Moyle said.

Greens Senate candidate Larissa Waters said the end of sand mining would not happen overnight.

"The decommissioning of the mine and regeneration of the area would take about five years and those jobs will be there for that time," she said.

"The State Government's own figures are that there will be 400 jobs in eco-tourism."

"Without us, Newman's Fuel say they wouldn't ship here," he said.

"The money the barges lose would be passed on to tourists as well."

Danielle Myers said her entire family was employed by Unimin.

"All of us would be out of a