

Let's force the patrons back to more sensible drinking. What's so

fun you, yet on my motorcycle I would most likely kill only myself.

road toll.

Jeff Fletcher, Collingwood Park

white cars should be prevented from driving on Wednesdays? It would have the same outcome.

Paul Baster, Cannanga

Sandmine lease renewal question

AS PREMIER Anna Bligh flew over North Stradbroke Island's expired sandmining leases, with a TV crew, she said that expired leases wouldn't be renewed.

But now Environment Minister Kate Jones is reported to have said that the Government will probably renew the expired Enterprise mining lease (C-M, Jun 21).

The public needs to see a proper statutory process for deciding this application to renew the Enterprise lease, strictly in accordance with the law.

The Queensland public interest demands that this process be done by the book, not through some dodgy negotiations.

Fran Quinn, Brisbane City

WILDLIFE Queensland congratulates the Bligh Government on its plan to phase out the destructive mining practices on North Stradbroke Island.

Finally, the Government is planning for the future by protecting our natural heritage and, hopefully, taking significant action before it's too late.

The Government must remain focused on protecting the environmental, cultural and economic values of the un-mined natural areas of North Stradbroke Island. This means not renewing expired mining leases.

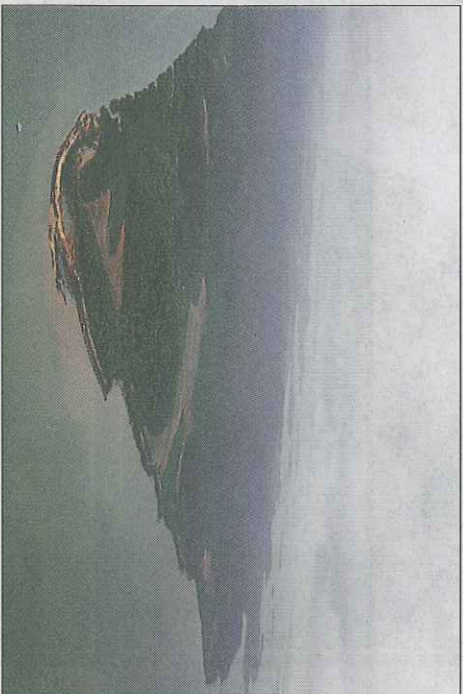
Phasing out mining and protecting the environment opens up huge opportunities for long-term sustainable industries while providing a lasting legacy for future generations.

The ever-dwindling jobs of this mining industry will be replaced by permanent jobs in national parks and low-impact, well-managed ecotourism.

Fiona Maxwell, Brisbane City

OUR family have enjoyed the beautiful North Stradbroke Island and have owned a property there since 1975. We find it repugnant that the State Government and mining companies are again on the take. Our family strongly urges the State Government to phase out all mining, including the pending Enterprise lease. Convoys of heavy machinery and hundreds of trucks belching and groaning through the village of Dunwich, the gateway to Straddle, have no tourism benefits.

Melodie Downey, Point Lookout



BEYOND GLADSTONE: The proposed Curtis Island gas plant site.

Biodiversity in jeopardy

THE massive loss of biodiversity due to a planned gas plant mentioned in Des Houghton's column (C-M, June 19) does not stop at Curtis Island, but extends north and west of Townsville, Bowen and Mackay to Mt Isa and Winton.

Little to no baseline wildlife monitoring has been done for fossil-fuel mining sites, other than the brief one or two flora and fauna surveys by the mines to meet environmental impact statement requirements.

Floodplains are where most mines are. Wildlife here uses riparian vegetation along waterways as their major water and

transport highways. Mine the floodplain and you significantly affect biodiversity.

The mines always state in their EISs that they can mitigate the losses, citing the loophole of biodiversity offsets.

The Government refuses to protect gazetted nature refuges - privately owned land of high conservation value - from mining. Even "offsets" can be mined.

This is the International Year of Biodiversity, an opportunity for all levels of government to lift their game.

Patricia Julien, Mackay

Conservation Group co-ordinator

Fast broadband wastes millions

I CANNOT see the point in spending billions on this you-beat-NBN network when there is already broadband which operates eight times faster than the internet connection on which I emailed this letter. But, like thousands of others, I cannot afford it.

The NBN in Tasmania cost \$747 million to roll out to 464,000 people, and less than 15 per cent of Tasmanians are going to connect to it due to the cost.

This is a very expensive net-work for a handful of people.

The money spent on it would have been better spent on necessary services.

Brian Doherty, Bealleigh

Let the real fans watch the footy

TO ALL those people who decide to spend their time at the football leaving their seats to get endless drinks, have a smoke and to visit their friends three rows down, please in future go to a pub instead.

On Friday night at the double header, my family and I lost count of the amount of times the people in our row and the rows in front of us left their seats.

At one stage, my son commented to me: "They're not even watching the football".

Please, think about the people who do come to watch the actual football.

Judith Aitken, Everton Hills

● BOXING fans know Anthony Mundine is not the great fighter his esteemed father Tony was. Now, it seems, his opposition to racism is about as frail as his other skills.

He has been saying several of his Aboriginal friends were "cocornuts" for expressing guarded sympathy for Andrew Johns.

Surely Mundine's comments are no better than those made by Johns?

Gary Ruddick, Karara Downs

● THE TV reporting of the disappearance of Ken Talbot defied belief. More than half of the story I saw related to the ridiculous charges he was facing, over the equally ridiculous Nuttall affair.

It was shameful at best, and very amateurish at worst. Mind you, it deteriorated more yesterday when some genius decided to play remarks made to reporters by Wilson Tuckey, who suggested this tragedy was the fault of the mining tax.

William Garthridge, Pinijarra Hills

Thought for today

The chief lesson I have learned in a long life is that the only way to make a man trustworthy is to trust him; and the surest way to make him untrustworthy is to distrust him and show your distrust.

Henry L. Stimson

(1867-1950) American politician

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RECORD

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