

COURIER MAIL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

17/2/10

Miner could be charged

CLIMATE Change and Sustainability Minister Kate Jones says Stradbroke Island miner Unimin Ltd had been hit with charges deemed by department lawyers as having the best chances of successful prosecution (C-M, Feb 16).

Putting aside the question whether more serious, indictable charges would more appropriately reflect the seriousness of the alleged illegal removal and sale of millions of dollars of sand, there is also the issue of the lack of a Forestry Act permit.

Under that Act, sand is owned by the state and cannot be removed or sold without a permit. There does not appear to be any dispute that Unimin did not have a permit. A prosecution for this offence would appear to be straightforward. Why hasn't Unimin been charged with this offence?

Michael Kennedy, New Farm