

TRANSCRIPT OF RADIO INTERVIEW BETWEEN STEVE AUSTIN  
& CAMPBELL NEWMAN (CALLER: JAN)  
ON 20 JANUARY 2012

JAN: Hello Mr Newman

CN: Hello Jan

JAN: My question is will you be looking to increase sand mining on North Stradbroke Island in terms of the number of years or the area to be mined. At the moment there's specific dates legislated for when mining is to end and are you going to change it?

CN: Well look, this is the way that we feel about Stradbroke Island. Um, unlike um Anna Bligh and my opponent in Ashgrove, Kate Jones, I care about the people on Stradbroke Island who actually are seeing their livelihoods, um their business, um their jobs trashed. Now sand mining has to come to an end on Stradbroke Island let's be very very clear about that, we want to see ultimately a wonderful national park there, we want to see the island remediated, ah we want to see it ultimately to be all about um tourism, eco-tourism and the like. But where we differ from the government is we care about people, that mine is important currently and we're saying that the government shouldn't have, in a unilateral and a very capricious way, come in in the last 12 months and it was all about green preferences, come in and actually curtail mining in terms of what was originally permitted under the leases. We believe that there should be a proper orderly run out of those leases requiring the company to remediate to the highest environmental standards and allowing the island the proper time to transition to a new economy. It's got to happen eventually

SA: **So you may increase the sand mining leases**

CN: **Well, well**

SA: **Or extend them or allow them to be extended?**

CN: **No no hang on, we would go, we would go back to where we were before the government came in and chopped everyone off at the kneecaps.** This is about family Steve, this isn't just about a big mining company. This is about people who've seen you know their whole means of support, their income ripped out from underneath them and there's a lot of very unhappy people on Stradbroke Island and I think

it's about time we listened to them and not just the political messages from Anna Bligh and Kate Jones and others

SA: But how, but Kate Jones hasn't said anything about Stradbroke

CN: No she has

SA: No

CN: No hang on she was the minister for the environment and she's my opponent in Ashgrove and this is a decision where she has hurt people and you know I think what I'm saying is reasonable, I think it's a long-term best interest of the environment and the community we adopt approach

SA: But Jan's question was will you increase sand mining on North Stradbroke Island. So will you adjust the leases

CN: Well

SA: Will you give the mining company more latitude to

CN: We will allow, we will allow the mine to proceed in the way that it was originally allowed to prior to the actions of the last 18 months

SA: In my mind that's a yes

CN: yeah well the premise has been put to me as though we're giving something more than was originally there and that is not the case. We would be restoring rights of the community and the company to continue so that the mine ultimately can progress orderly to a, in an orderly way to a shut down. That's what we're saying. Now that isn't weasel words, the premise was put to me that in some way we'd be extending – that's not the case, the community and the mining company had certain rights which Anna Bligh and labour took away last year. There's a huge difference there.

SA: 20 past 9 across South-East Queensland, this is 612 ABC Brisbane, at ABC digital my name's Steve Austin and Campbell Newman is my guest.