



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for the Environment

MC15-014524

Ms Sue Ellen Carew
President
Friends of Stradbroke Island
PO Box 167
POINT LOOKOUT QLD 4183

21 AUG 2015

Dear Ms Carew

I refer to your email of 9 April 2015 concerning the operation of the Enterprise Mine on North Stradbroke Island, Queensland. I regret the delay in responding.

I am advised that the Department of the Environment is nearing completion of its complex enquiry into mineral sands extraction undertaken by Sibelco on North Stradbroke Island. These enquiries have focused on whether exemptions available under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the Act) apply to these mining operations, and if not, whether the works undertaken by Sibelco have either contravened, or require approval under, the Act.

As you would be aware, compliance officers from the Department met with representatives of Friends of Stradbroke Island Association in November 2013 to discuss the operation of the Enterprise Mine. Following that meeting, in March 2015 your legal counsel provided the Department with a report into the impacts of mining operations on the Ibis Lagoon to the west of the current mining operation. The Department notes that whilst the report presents a largely circumstantial case, when considered in the context of other information available to the Department, there is sufficient detail to warrant seeking additional information from Sibelco into certain aspects of their operations. This will be done in advance of making a final decision on the potential for Sibelco's operations to significantly impact on the ecological character of the adjacent Morton Bay Ramsar wetland.

You will be advised of the outcome of the case once a final decision has been made.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt