

MEDIA STATEMENT: 9 April, 2024

DECISION ON FLAWED TOONDAH SCHEME WELCOMED BY STRADBROKE GROUP

The Stradbroke (Terrangeri) Environmental and Cultural Protection Association Inc (SECP) today welcomed the proposed decision of Minister Plibersek to reject Cleveland's [fatally flawed](#) Toondah Harbour real estate scheme.

President of SECP and Aboriginal Elder, Dale Ruska, said:

"This has been a long battle. While the proposed decision to stop destruction of tidal wetlands is the right one and will help protect Moreton Bay and Stradbroke Island from current carried dredge spoil and pollution, much more needs to be done to clean up the Bay, including the waters around Stradbroke".

"Many people have been involved in this campaign to stop the Toondah real estate scheme but I want to particularly acknowledge the many Aboriginal people who did not accept the support given to the destructive proposal by the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC)."

"It started with the Newman Government but QYAC's media support helped to keep the scheme alive after Labor won Government in Queensland in 2015".

"I also want to acknowledge the letter to Minister Plibersek in December, 2023, from young Quandamooka man, Djarra Delaney, signed by over 120 Indigenous residents of the Island, including many Elders. That letter made it clear that a large proportion of us strongly opposed the Toondah plan and objected to the way our views had been ignored by Walker Corporation and Governments."

"I thank the **Save Straddie** group for continuing to assist our Association with our [DoGooder campaign letter](#) to the Minister – and also for its leading role in spreading the word, exposing the truth, and building opposition to the Toondah scheme on and off Stradbroke".

Secretary of SECP and retired lawyer, Richard Carew said:

"The opposition to the Toondah scheme from residents of Stradbroke, both indigenous and non-indigenous, has played an important role in building public opposition to the scheme."

"Opposition from the Island is important because Stradbroke was used to justify the real estate development from an early stage. To quote former Queensland Deputy Premier Jackie Trad:

"The proposed Toondah Harbour revitalisation project is fundamental in supporting the economic transition of North Stradbroke Island from sandmining to eco-tourism." (Trad letter dated 28.7.17)."

“This unexplained claim was based around myths about the impacts of ending sand mining. When sand mining ended in 2019 and the sky didn’t fall in, the myths were exposed”.

“The Toondah Harbour scheme and the Priority Development Area which made it possible have always been fatally flawed because they breach the Ramsar Convention and our national environment protection laws. Neither should have got off the ground.”

“Premier [Steven Miles knows](#) the Toondah PDA conflicts with Australia’s international Ramsar obligations. He also knows that Federal law stipulates that the Federal Environment Minister ***‘must not act inconsistently with Australia’s obligations under the Ramsar Convention’***”.

“SECP looks forward to the final decision and calls on the Miles Government to then revoke the Toondah Harbour Priority Development Area over Ramsar listed wetlands and end this sorry saga for good”.

For more information contact **Dale Ruska** on (number deleted) or **Richard Carew** on (number deleted)