

# Factsheet

*The Queensland Government is committed to maximising opportunities for workers affected by the phasing out of mineral sand mining on North Stradbroke Island. The North Stradbroke Island (NSI) Workers Assistance Scheme (WAS) will assist affected workers find alternative employment, preferably in the local area, and support the ongoing economic viability of the North Stradbroke Island (NSI) community.*

## What assistance is available?

The Queensland Government has allocated up to \$5 million for the WAS to assist affected workers transition to alternative employment. Assistance under the WAS includes:

- job search support;
- training and skills support;
- housing assistance;
- commuting subsidy;
- income supplementation; and
- dislocation assistance.

Employers who hire an affected worker will be eligible for a wage subsidy, once the employee has been employed for six months.

Assistance will be available for a five-year period to May 2021.

## Who can apply for assistance?

Sibelco workers made redundant at the company's operations on NSI (including the Pinkenba processing plant) as a result of the cessation of sand mining on NSI can apply for assistance under the WAS, subject to meeting applicable eligibility requirements.

- Permanent full-time and part-time workers can access all assistance elements (subject to eligibility requirements).
- Long term casual workers can access all assistance elements, with the exception of income supplementation and dislocation assistance (subject to eligibility requirements).

Employers who hire an affected worker in a permanent full-time or part-time position may access the employer wage subsidy (eligibility requirements apply), once the affected worker has been employed for six months.

## How can assistance be accessed?

A full-time Employment Services Manager (ESM) has been appointed, and will divide their time between the Department of State Development (DSD) NSI Office and a DSD Office located in the local area on the mainland, to assist affected workers.

The ESM is the first point of contact for affected workers regarding assistance available under the WAS. The ESM will deliver job search, training and skills support, as well as support the provision of the housing assistance, commuting subsidy, income supplementation and dislocation assistance, including help with the application process.

The ESM will:

- provide information on available Queensland Government and Australian Government assistance;
- support affected workers with recognition of prior learning and/or qualifications;
- provide referrals to a range of services;
- provide initial verification of applications for financial assistance; and
- engage case managers, if required, to work on a one-on-one basis with affected workers.

## When can assistance be accessed?

Job search support and training and skills support are available to all affected workers, prior to and following retrenchment. Commuting subsidy, housing assistance, income supplementation and dislocation assistance are available to eligible affected workers following confirmation of retrenchment from Sibelco.

Employers may apply for the wage subsidy, once they have employed an affected worker for a period of six months subject to eligibility criteria.

Payment of financial assistance elements of the WAS will occur within 14 business days of the application and relevant supporting documentation being submitted by the ESM to Queensland Treasury.

## Further information

**Web** <https://www.treasury.qld.gov.au/projects-infrastructure/initiatives//nsi/workers-assistance-scheme.php>

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