

Bribie Island Erosion and Breakthrough Review

Terms of reference – April 2025

Background

Ongoing erosion, has severely narrowed the width of the northern tip of Bribie Island, creating several weak points. In 2022, large waves cut a new channel through the weakest part of the northern tip of Bribie Island opposite Nelson Street, Golden Beach. This channel rapidly widened and became a new opening to the ocean. Soon after, the original Caloundra Bar closed over. This body of water has constrained the Caloundra Coast Guard, preventing access to the southern passage and open ocean.

Further severe weather caused by Tropical Cyclone Alfred in 2025 has further widened the 2022 breakthrough and caused more damage, including extensive erosion to the foredune at Lions Park. This event also created a second breakthrough south of Lions Park. These events have heightened residents' and businesses' concerns about future risk and impacts, given the Northern tip of Bribie Island has traditionally shielded Caloundra from effects of severe weather.

The Queensland Government committed to conducting an expert, independent review to investigate ongoing erosion, previous break through events and the impacts these have had on Bribie Island. Immediate and long-term recommendations will be developed and consultation with the Local Government, community organisations and local community will occur to assure that their concerns have been heard and are being actioned.

Scope

Issues and areas expected to be included in the review include, but are not limited to:

- Developing urgent recommendations to stabilise the situation for consideration by Government
- Undertaking a desktop review of previous reports and studies relating to the cause and impacts of the long-term erosion of the island and the breakthroughs in 2022 and 2025
- Identifying causes for the ongoing erosion of the island and subsequent wash overs and breakthroughs
- Identifying impacts of the breakthroughs on the natural protection of Caloundra including residents, business, recreational boating, and the Coast Guard.
- Assessing the impact of dredging and shipping channel operations in Moreton Bay that affect Bribie Island including on sand migration.
- Considering natural and anthropogenic changes contributing to island erosion across mainland catchment areas and Moreton Bay that affect Bribie Island.
- Developing long term recommendations to reduce risk of further damage, including to mainland foreshore, infrastructure, and waterways, preserve Bribie Island and maintain navigation through Pumicestone Passage
- Undertaking consultation with Local Government, Federal Government and the local community on short- and longer-term solutions.
- Any other relevant matters the independent reviewer considers appropriate to the review

Report

The output from the review is the final report. The report will include review of existing analysis, outcomes of consultation and short- and long-term recommendations. The review report will be compiled for submission to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. A critical element of the scope is that recommendations for immediate action can be made prior to the completion of the final report. Following approval, the final summary report may be published.

Public engagement

Community consultation will ensure transparency and that community views are representative of the local population. This will include a project webpage for written submissions and locally led community forums.