

Bribie Island Delivery Strategy and Management Arrangements – Government response

Background

After years of inaction and following ex-Tropical Cyclones Seth in 2022 and Alfred earlier in 2025, the Crisafulli Government committed to an urgent review to investigate causes and impacts of erosion and breakthroughs at northern Bribie Island and respond to growing community concern.

In April 2025, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) commissioned independent, expert consultants, RPS AAP Consulting Pty Ltd (RPS) in partnership with International Coastal Management (ICM), to investigate previous breakthroughs and the impacts on Bribie Island, Caloundra and the Pumicestone Passage.

The Bribie Island Erosion and Breakthrough Review (the Review) considered immediate or urgent actions to reduce risks of further damage to communities and infrastructure, prior to consideration of longer term actions to preserve Bribie Island and maintain navigation through Pumicestone Passage.

On 12 June 2025, the Crisafulli Government announced a \$20 million package of emergency measures following community consultation and the Review's recommendations to close the southern breakthroughs, buffer Bribie Island and improve flows to northern Pumicestone Passage ahead of the upcoming storm season. These measures are being delivered by Queensland's Coordinator-General, starting in late September 2025.

Findings and Recommendations

The Review's recommendations focus on proactive, forward-looking measures to enhance long term resilience of Bribie Island and the coastal system, including to:

- 1) Reinstate Bribie Island / close first breakthrough to restore the Island's original barrier function
- 2) Enhance Bribie Island and Pumicestone Passage for improved resilience, proposing a set of ten optional actions or solutions incorporating both nature-based and hybrid engineering solutions
- 3) Develop and implement long-term management pathways to establish a robust and adaptive management and maintenance strategy for Bribie Island
- 4) Reassess environmental zoning and permitting, including reassessing the boundaries and limitations of the existing approvals and permit framework to support a shift to proactive management.

Government response

The Crisafulli Government welcomes the Review's findings and appreciates the strong community feedback and engagement on this important issue. The government is committed to responding to the impacts of breakthroughs at Bribie Island as raised by the community and found in the Review, building on the emergency measures being delivered by the Coordinator-General.

The Review highlights that the Bribie Island-Pumicestone Passage system is highly dynamic, subject to a range of influences which is why Government responded quickly through the emergency works package and recognises the importance of monitoring and long term management.

The emergency works, delivered by the Coordinator-General through the 2025-2026 storm season, will inform the design of long term actions to enhance Bribie Island's resilience and restore its function as a natural buffer to Golden Beach and Caloundra.

Table 1: Government response to long term recommendations

Rec #	Recommendation	Government response	Comments
Part 3 Recommendations			
1	Reinstate Bribie Island / close first breakthrough	Support in principle	<p>The Crisafulli Government supports this recommendation given the rationale provided and proposed efficacy to solve the pressing community concerns and raised in the report.</p> <p>To advance this recommendation, the Government will undertake further detailed design and planning assessment as well as environmental assessment to confirm feasibility, cost and timeframe for delivery.</p> <p>Approved and funded emergency works being undertaken by the Coordinator-General, are an important contribution to determining detail on the long term works and their timeframe and cost.</p>
2	Enhance Bribie Island and Pumicestone Passage for improved resilience	Support	<p>With works already underway, the Crisafulli Government has heard the community and taken immediate action to begin protecting Bribie Island and Pumicestone Passage through the emergency works. This will be supported through detailed planning and design for protections of the area to determine a detailed approach, ensuring its feasibility, timeframe and estimated cost.</p>
3	Develop and implement long-term management pathways	Support	<p>The Crisafulli Government recognises the importance of long-term management of the passage after years of inaction and neglect, and is progressing the commitment to establishing the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority to invest in the ongoing protection and coastal resilience.</p>

Rec #	Recommendation	Government response	Comments
4	Reassess environmental zoning and permitting	Support	The Crisafulli Government supports a proactive approach to protecting this area through local knowledge and this report's recommendations to be tested through development and implementation planning for required / supported long term works.
Part 4 Recommendations			
1	Retain and continuously improve understanding of this complex coastal system	Support	The Crisafulli Government has heard the community's concern and will recognise the importance of understanding Bribie Island as part of a larger complex, connected and dynamic environment.
2	Proactively manage, not passively protect, Pumicestone Passage and Bribie Island	Support	The Crisafulli Government will proactively safeguard this coastline through by establishing the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority to manage the impacts on years of erosion on Bribie and the Passage.
3	Establish appropriate management arrangements	Support	The Crisafulli Government has committed to establishing the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority to give certainty to the community and ensure effective delivery and monitoring of Bribie Island's ongoing resilience.
4	Develop a forward works program that considers Part 3 and 4 recommendations	Support	The Crisafulli Government recognises the importance of detailed planning after years of neglect of the area, and will proceed with a forward works program to proactively respond to the recommendations.
5	View the Port of Brisbane Channel Enhancement Project as an opportunity	Support	The Crisafulli Government is acting swiftly to respond to the pressing community concerns and coastal impacts of the passage and notes the link between the Port of Brisbane Channel Enhancement Project and a continuing program of works to support Bribie Island's resilience.