



Hon Andrew Powell MP  
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

Level 13  
400 George Street Brisbane 4000  
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3239 0844  
Facsimile +61 7 3224 2496  
Email [environment@ministerial.qld.gov](mailto:environment@ministerial.qld.gov)

Ref CTS 12843/13

Councillor Mark Jamieson  
Mayor  
Sunshine Coast Regional Council  
Locked Bag 72  
SUNSHINE COAST MAIL CENTRE QLD 4560

Dear Councillor Jamieson

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark".

As you are aware, there has been ongoing concern in Caloundra about a potential breakthrough of the northern section of Bribie Island and the establishment of a new tidal entrance to Pumicestone Passage south of the existing entrance.

It has been recognised for over a decade that the breakthrough of the northern section of Bribie Island is highly likely to occur. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has been monitoring the situation. Recent storm events, particularly ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald, have severely eroded the eastern beach of Bribie Island. There is now a significant risk that a tidal breakthrough will occur in the next cyclone season should a cyclone track towards south east Queensland.

A number of years ago, the Pumicestone Passage Advisory Task Force was established consisting of State and Local Government members together with community members in response to community concern regarding the on-going and active erosion of the northern end of Bribie Island. An investigation of the risks associated with a tidal breakthrough was detailed in the report '*Bribie Island Tidal Breakthrough Risk Assessment*' prepared by Aurecon (2009).

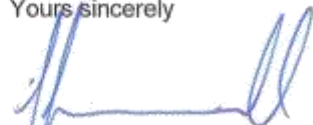
The department maintains that the breakthrough of the northern Bribie Island is part of the natural coastal processes and should be allowed to occur as part of the natural changes of the coast. However, a tidal breakthrough of Bribie Island may impact on the developed areas of Golden Beach. It is understood that the Aurecon (2009) report detailed management options to address the potential impacts to Golden Beach and it may be timely to consider necessary works associated with these recommendations.

2

Departmental officers are available to work with council officers to provide advice on coastal erosion management and to ensure any proposed works are dealt with efficiently and effectively through the approval process. I recommend your officers contact Mr Bryce Hertslet, Regional Manager of the department on telephone 5459 6124 to initiate these discussions.

I hope this information has been of assistance to you. Should you have further enquiries, please contact my Chief of Staff, Mr Troy Collings on 3239 0844.

Yours sincerely



**ANDREW POWELL MP**  
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

CC

The Honourable Mark McArdle MP  
Minister for Energy and Water Supply  
Member for Caloundra

Mrs Lisa France MP  
Member for Pumicestone

Mr John Knaggs  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Councillor Tim Dwyer  
Division 2  
Sunshine Coast Regional Council