

Erosion on the Passage side of Bribie Island



Has the placement of historic oyster beds within the Passage and the increased flows of Lamerough Canal increased the rate of erosion at the Blue Hole?

No.

Where the main tidal channel flows against Bribie Island, in the vicinity of the Blue Hole (refer Figure 1), active erosion of the banks can be seen and this has caused much community concern.

There have been some theories that the erosion occurring at the Blue Hole has been made worse by the historic placement of oyster beds within the Passage and the increased outflows of Lamerough Canal. The theory being that the oyster beds and increased flows have changed the nature of the sand banks within the Passage, causing a shift of the main tidal channel closer to the western side of Bribie Island, which in turn is accelerating the rate of erosion at the Blue Hole.

The Environmental Protection Agency provided an independent report to the previous Council which investigated these claims. The report found that these theories were incorrect.

The erosion on the Passage side of Bribie Island at the Blue Hole is considered to be a natural process. The channel has predominantly been at this location (refer Figures 2a and 2b) since first surveyed in 1865. In fact, the report showed the sandbars and channel in the Passage have been migrating north to south driven by slightly faster incoming tide flows (refer Figure 3).

In addition, a review of historical erosion of the area indicates that the present day rate of erosion on the Passage side of Bribie Island is relatively minor. As such the Environmental Protection Agency, which has responsibility over the day to day management of the Bribie Island Recreation Area has recommended that no action is required to control bank erosion in the vicinity of the Blue Hole at this time.



Why were the oyster beds south of Monash Street removed?

As the oyster bed rubble piles south of Monash Street (refer Figure 3) were exposed at low tide, they were considered by the Environmental Protection Agency to pose a risk to public health and safety and have subsequently been partially removed by Council.

If you are interested in reading the full independent report prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency, you can download a copy from Council's website, visit: www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au or contact Environment Policy (Caloundra Office) on 07 5420 8200.



PUMICESTONE
 PASSAGE
 ADVISORY
 TASK FORCE

Prepared by Pumicestone Passage Advisory Task Force
 © June 2008 Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Acknowledgments: Queensland Environmental Protection Agency

All figures are indicative only.

This document is printed on environmentally responsible paper.

Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Caloundra Office
 1 Orrish Avenue
 07 5420 8200 07 5420 8900

Maroochydore Office
 11 - 13 Ocean Street
 07 5475 9501 07 5441 8238

Nambour Office
 Cor Currie and Bury Streets
 07 5475 9501 07 5441 8338

Towantia Office
 9 Pelican Street
 07 5449 8250 07 5447 1062