



Minister for the Environment and Tourism
Minister for Science and Innovation

Our Ref: CTS 03754/25

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20 March 2025

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your email of 20 February 2025 enclosing a copy of Parliamentary Petition Nos. 4139-24 and 4208-25 concerning the management of the far northern section of Pumicestone Passage.

The Petitions raise concerns about the potential adverse effects on the local environment. The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (the department) has been monitoring water quality within Pumicestone Passage as part of the Healthy Land and Water Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program for over 20 years. The frequency of monitoring was expanded to every month from August 2023 to July 2024. In addition, a back-to-base telemetry buoy was deployed at the same time to provide data on physical and chemical conditions in near real-time (every ten minutes). The data collected during this period, and since then, through the routine program, has not shown any substantial decline in environmental water quality.

The department has also collected enterococci samples during the routine environmental water quality monitoring program as part of the Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program. Enterococci is commonly used as an indicator of faecal contamination. The levels detected have been low. However, this is by no means a comprehensive safety assessment for human health and Queensland Health should be consulted.

There is no question that the Bribie Island Breakthrough and changes to water dynamics are the result of natural coastal processes. The petitioners acknowledge the challenges faced, including that Bribie Island is a National Park and the Pumicestone Passage is in a Marine Park Conservation Zone and Ramsar-listed site. The department, and I, stand ready to work with other government agencies and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council in considering any proposed remedial action.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Powell MP
Minister for the Environment and Tourism
Minister for Science and Innovation