

Bribie Island Flood Mitigation

Phase 1 Engagement Summary
May 2025



Acknowledgment of Traditional Custodians

City of Moreton Bay acknowledges the Jinibara, Kabi Kabi and Turrbal peoples and pays respects to Elders, past, present and emerging. Council recognises that City of Moreton Bay has always been a place of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance to its Traditional Custodians. Council is committed to reconciliation and working in partnership with Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to shape a shared future for the benefit of all communities within the city and beyond.



Contents

- Addressing flood impacts on Bribie Island..... 1
 - Engagement snapshot 1
- What we heard..... 2
 - Roads and other infrastructure 2
 - Development concerns..... 3
 - Homes and properties 3
 - Maintenance 3
 - Lower risk areas..... 4
 - Cyclone Alfred..... 4
- Next steps..... 4

Disclaimer

Moreton Bay City Council and its officers accept no responsibility for any loss whatsoever arising howsoever from any person’s act or omission in connection with any information, expressed or implied, contained within this document. Nothing in this document should be taken as legal advice.

Addressing flood impacts on Bribie Island

City of Moreton Bay has been gathering local knowledge about flood impacts to inform planning for Bribie Island.

The Bribie Island Flood Mitigation study aims to identify cost-effective options to reduce flood risks to residents and businesses in four identified areas. It is important to investigate the effectiveness of different options, as some may provide more benefit than others, and some could even make flooding worse.

This project has received funding from the Queensland Government through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

We are also gathering local knowledge to support other flood mitigation and emergency preparedness projects on Bribie Island.



An image of street flooding shared by a Bellara resident.

Engagement snapshot

Between 31 January and 17 March 2025 we engaged with residents of Bribie Island to understand how floods have affected them in the past. The initial planned engagement period was extended by two weeks due to the approach of Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Engagement during this time included:



Three pop-up activities where more than 50 residents spoke to the project team at:

- Sylvan Beach Munch Markets on 1 February
- Woorim Markets on 8 February
- Bongaree Markets on 9 February.



A project website with information about the project and an interactive map to add stories:

- 52 flood stories added to the interactive map
- More than 1,000 website visits from over 900 unique users.



Alternative contact points for those who preferred not to share information online:

- Four contributions by email
- One contribution by phone.

What we heard

Thank you for sharing your stories and experiences of past flood events on Bribie Island. Your contributions are helping us understand the priority issues for residents so we can target works to meet your needs.



The loss of this causeway caused significant impacts for the White Patch community in 2022.

Roads and other infrastructure

You told us how roads and other infrastructure have been impacted by flooding in the past. In some cases, flooding was associated with high tides and went down with the low tide.

Flooding on Bribie Island Road can cut residents off from work and essential services like specialist medical appointments. We heard this can affect people differently; some people were able to work from home while cut off, and others were forced to use their personal leave.

We also heard about flood impacts to:

- the causeway to White Patch
- the bikeway / footpath between Woorim and Bongaree
- Arcadia Avenue and surrounding areas in Woorim
- Dux Drive at the entrance to the Gem Life Bribie Island estate
- Ford Street and surrounding areas in Bongaree
- Bonham Street, Nulu Street, Webster Street and surrounding areas in Bongaree
- Bestman Avenue and surrounding areas in Bongaree
- Charlotte Avenue and surrounding areas in Bellara
- streets surrounding the Bibimulya Wetlands in Bellara
- flooding in private estates including the Bongaree Caravan Park, Island Breeze Resort and Bribie Pines Island Village
- beach access roads, including the road to Red Beach.

“When they did the Bribie Island Road upgrade at Hickey Road they didn't upgrade the culverts. Water spills over and floods the road.”

Feedback at a pop-up event

Development concerns

Several residents raised concerns about the impact of development on natural drainage patterns. This included concerns about:

- filling low lying areas where water previously pooled
- concrete-lined underground carparks disrupting ground water flows
- more hard surfaces (roads, houses, paved areas etc) increasing the volume of rainwater running into drainage systems.

Some residents advocated for an increase in green areas and tree planting to help absorb this additional water. Other residents felt an increase in planting would slow the flow of stormwater and increase flood impacts.

“I think we need more trees and green space to absorb the rainwater.

Overdevelopment is causing increased runoff and flooding.”

Online response

Homes and properties

Many residents reported flooding of their yards, driveways and sheds. Some residents reported flooding inside their homes. Some residents of unit blocks reported flooding of basement carparks and storage areas.

Flooding of homes and properties was most frequently reported in Bongaree. Some properties in Woorim and Bellara were also impacted.

“My yard and the surrounding street floods with heavy rain. This does not need to be a severe weather event. This happens every time it rains. It can be so bad that there will be 2 inches of water in my garage.”

Online response

Maintenance

Some residents raised concerns that leaves, plants and rubbish in stormwater drains and creeks made it harder for water to drain away. They requested increased Council maintenance of stormwater drains and waterways.

“Leaves in drains causing blockage. They need to be cleaned out.”

Online response

Lower risk areas

Many residents let us know where they have not experienced flooding. This included:

- Pacific Harbour Canal estate
- Banksia Beach
- Godwin Beach
- north of First Avenue in Woorim
- parts of Bellara and Bongaree.

Some residents stated the cost of flood insurance on their properties had gone up despite not being at risk themselves.

"I live on the canals. These houses don't flood, but our insurance premiums went up because the whole postcode area is mapped as "flood risk"."

Online response

Cyclone Alfred

Consultation was originally scheduled to close on 3 March 2025. With Cyclone Alfred predicted to cross the South East Queensland coast, consultation was extended two weeks to allow any new flood impacts to be captured.

No new responses were added during this period, however there was a significant increase in traffic to the website. This suggests residents may have been looking for more information about flood risks on Bribie Island as they prepared for the cyclone.

Next steps

The project team is using the local knowledge of flood issues shared by residents in this consultation to improve their understanding of flood risks and community priorities for flood mitigation on Bribie Island. We are grateful to all the residents who participated and shared their invaluable knowledge.

We will now develop cost-effective options for flood mitigation works that address flood issues and meet the communities' priorities.

If multiple options are identified for an area, we will ask for community feedback on those options before finalising planning for flood mitigation works.

This project does not include funding for construction of those works. It will identify and prioritise flood mitigation projects for consideration in future Council budgets.



Disaster preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Visit getready.qld.gov.au for tips on making your disaster plan and emergency kit.

