



10 June 2009

BREAK UP OF NORTHERN TIP OF BRIBIE ISLAND IMMINENT

“Recent heavy weather has caused further serious erosion on the northern tip of Bribie Island, to the point where a number of permanent break-throughs by the ocean is imminent” said Glen Elmes, Member for Noosa and the Shadow Minister for Climate Change & Sustainability.

“I inspected the northern tip of Bribie Island on 12th May, together with my colleague and local member, Mark McArdle, and found that the ocean had actually washed through the Island in four separate locations during the previous period of heavy weather.

“I took particular notice of the Leadlight on the Island, which is central to navigation for the Port of Brisbane. 12 months ago it had a 50 metre buffer of sand dunes. When Mark McArdle and I were there last month, that buffer had receded to within 1 metre of the Leadlight. In less one month since then, a further 2 metres of dunes have been lost on the ocean side of the Island alone. (photos attached)

“In my media release at the time, and in the speech I made to the parliament on 2 June, I reminded the Minister, and her do-nothing-department, that when the ocean breaks through, the whole of the low-lying coastal area around Golden Beach will be subject to flooding.

“As a matter of extreme urgency local sand must be pumped back on the beach to prevent the break up of the Island in the four identified locations, and in front of the Leadlight, to prevent its eventual loss.

“While I understand the views of some who say do nothing and let nature take it’s course, the fact is that we have already tampered with nature in the Golden Beach area, we now have no option other than to, in the most sensitive way possible, prevent the break up of the northern tip of Brisbie Island. Not to act will result in a huge cost to Council, State Government and all land owners in Caloundra. ENDS

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