

Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026

Submission No: 036

Submission By: Jenny Tannoch-Bland

18 March, 2026

Jenny Tannoch-Bland



To The Chair
State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee
Parliament House, George Street, Brisbane

Dear Sir,

SUBMISSION RE SUNSHINE COAST WATERWAYS AUTHORITY BILL 2026Introduction

As a resident of Diamond Head, my care for and involvement in the community and its stewardship is demonstrated through volunteering in three community groups in Caloundra, and membership in five.

Having narrowly escaped inundation of my home only a year ago when Cyclone Alfred threatened, I have followed closely the progress of the Emergency Works. I am very grateful for the pro-active response of the Crisafulli government.

I am particularly concerned that the long-term works to reopen the Caloundra Bar and close the Bribie Bar proceed in a timely manner, restoring the health and sustainable dynamics of the Pumicestone Passage as indicated in the Bribie Island Erosion and Breakthrough Reports (BIEBR).

Following decades of neglect in management of the Passage, I welcome the establishment of a Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority to secure the ongoing management of the Passage into the future.

The SCWA should recognise and address the following:

1. The Pumicestone Passage, a double-ended estuary, has stand-alone environmental management needs. It is open to Moreton Bay to the south and the Pacific Ocean to the north, with freshwater inflow from major creeks and tributaries. It has been subject to the breaching of Bribie Island from the Ocean. The influences on water quality and ecology are complex (BIEBR).
2. Re-opening the Caloundra Bar and closing the Bribie Bar need to be prioritised for the health of the Passage. There is already a toxicity problem at the norther end of the passage. Once these long-term works are completed the tidal prism will be restored and water quality improved.
3. The Passage takes in two Councils and several community groups. Meaningful community engagement through true (rather than box ticking) community engagement and consultation, taking advantage of the local

expertise and knowledge that exists in some of these organisations, will be crucial to positive outcomes.

4. Protecting the environment is intrinsic to protecting the social, touristic and economic value of the Passage.
5. The SCWA Board should include ex-officio representation, e.g. the Mayor of the SCCC.

Conclusion

As a resident of Diamond Head and active community member, I ask that the SCWA implements a management program that recognises the importance of the economic and environmental wellbeing of the Caloundra community, through:

1. Prioritising the long-term Rectification works for Bribie Island, building back our barrier island and re-opening the Caloundra Bar, restoring the tidal prism.
2. Providing long-term management and monitoring of the Passage into the future.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Tannoch-Bland

██████████