Ramsar and water management

November 2026

The Wave – Stages 1 and 2 (Rail) project is outside the Moreton Bay Ramsar site and is not expected to directly impact it.

Parts of the project area lie in catchments that drain to Pumicestone Passage, which forms part of the Ramsar site. These waterways include Bells Creek, Lamerough Creek, Bellbird Creek, Bluegum Creek and connected wetlands. Other waterways, including Currimundi Creek, have also been considered as part of the assessment.

What did the Draft Public Environment Report (PER) find?

The Draft Public Environment Report (PER) found that project-related impacts on Pumicestone Passage and the broader Moreton Bay Ramsar site would be minor, localised and generally temporary.

With the proposed management and monitoring measures in place, changes to water quality and water flows are expected to remain within the range of natural variation. No substantial or measurable change to the site's ecological character is predicted.

How impacts will be managed

Protecting water quality

Construction measures will reduce the risk of sediment, contaminated runoff and other pollutants entering waterways and wetlands. These include:

- installing and maintaining erosion and sediment controls before relevant ground disturbance
- managing access, piling, earthworks, clearing and waterway crossings to limit disturbance
- controlling runoff and construction-related contaminants, and monitoring whether these measures are effective
- adjusting measures or introducing additional controls where monitoring shows they are needed.

Maintaining water flows and wetland connections

Design and construction planning will consider how surface water and groundwater support wetlands and connected waterways. Measures include:

- using bridges, culverts and drainage structures to maintain water flows and connections for aquatic wildlife where practicable
- managing the removal of water from work areas and the lowering of groundwater levels where relevant
- protecting waterways, their banks and wetlands, and rehabilitating areas temporarily disturbed by construction
- coordinating measures for water management, contaminated land, acid sulfate soils and biosecurity near sensitive waterways.

What happens next

A Biosecurity Management Plan will be finalised before construction. It will set out risk areas, treatment and cleaning requirements, controls on the movement of materials, and monitoring and record-keeping requirements.

It will also specify actions to take if new risks arise or measures need to be adjusted.

Find out more

Read The Wave – Stages 1 and 2 (Rail) Draft PER for the detailed findings and proposed environmental management measures.

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