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# Moreton Bay Sand Extraction Study

*Update – May 2005*

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# MBSES Background

## State Government objective:

*“to determine the environmental and economic issues relating to sand extraction in Moreton Bay to a sufficient level to allow Government to develop a strategy.”*

## Steering Committee chaired by EPA

- ◆ DSDI, DNR, DM&E, DPI &F, PBC, BAACL, EIA and MBW&CP reps

## Review Panel convened by MBW&CP

- ◆ GU, UQ and EPA reps

Study findings released in late April (EPA website)



# Background (cont.)

## Historical dredging

- Commercial dredging
- Large scale extraction for development projects
- Navigational channel maintenance

## Recognition of limitations

- Land based resource
- Marine resource

## Phased study to examine options

- Phase 1 - Environmental constraints/Gap anal.
- Phase 2 - Additional studies

# Background (cont.)

## Phase 1

- Review of existing data on sand extraction (land and marine)
- Gap analysis (background for Phase 2)

## Phase 2

- Economic analysis of sand extraction (land and marine based)
- Sediment geochemistry within Northern Moreton Bay and water quality impacts
- Benthic fauna and fisheries
- Indigenous and cultural heritage
- Modelling of wave penetration



# MBSES Key Findings

1. Increasing demand on resource
2. Land based resources diminishing
3. Alternate/reuse options only partially able to satisfy demand
4. Demand by large infrastructure projects (cost effective)
5. Limitations on land based resources
  - ◆ Environmental and social constraints
  - ◆ Ability to supply this demand
6. Existing land based resource committed
7. Transport of land based resources
8. Suitability of Northern Moreton Bay reserves
9. Minor and temporary disturbance only
10. Indirect ecological impacts predicted to be small
11. Economic benefits of marine based against land based extraction
12. Northern Moreton Bay reserves considered as viable source for supplementing diminishing land based operations
13. Recommended strategies for minimising impacts
  1. Areas of dredging
  2. Depth of dredging



# Where to from here?

Government acceptance of the findings

However, Impact Assessment Studies will be required for individual projects

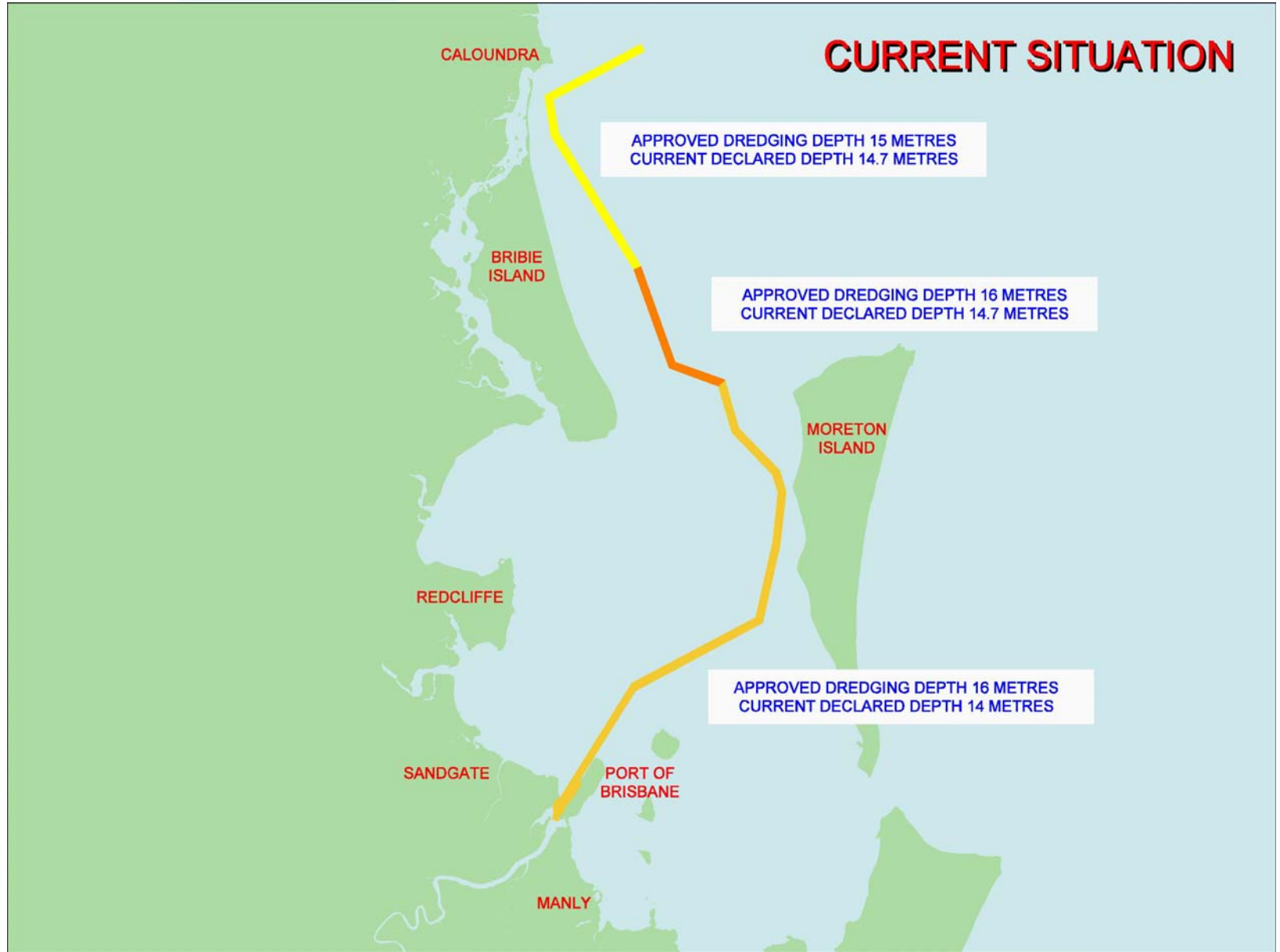
Sand for port development

- Increased demand of “bring land on” largely driven by regional growth
- Opportunity to link sand needs with channel improvements
- Long-term plan (15 years)

Proposal to undertake an EIS to consider the Straightening of Spitfire Channel



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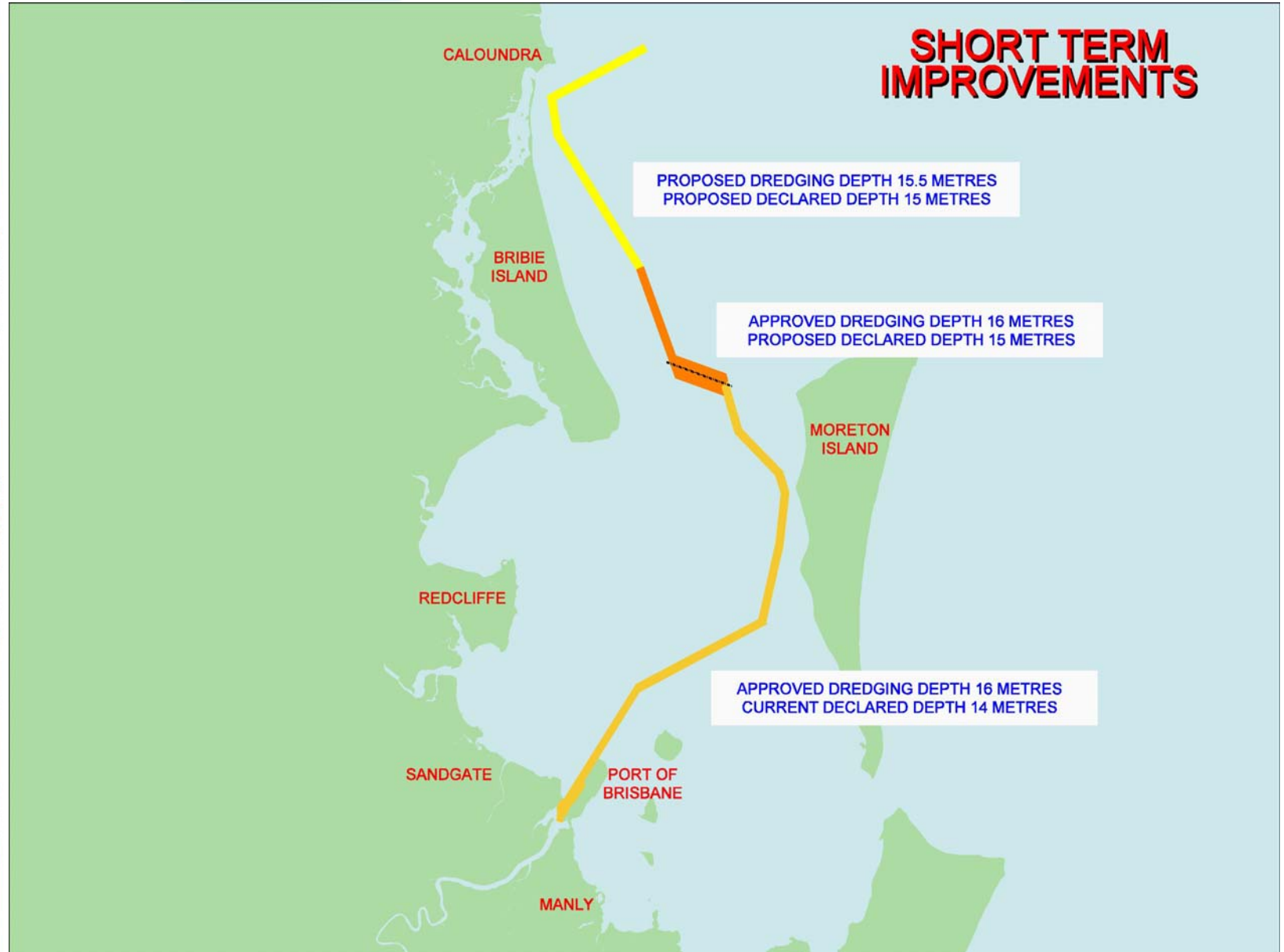
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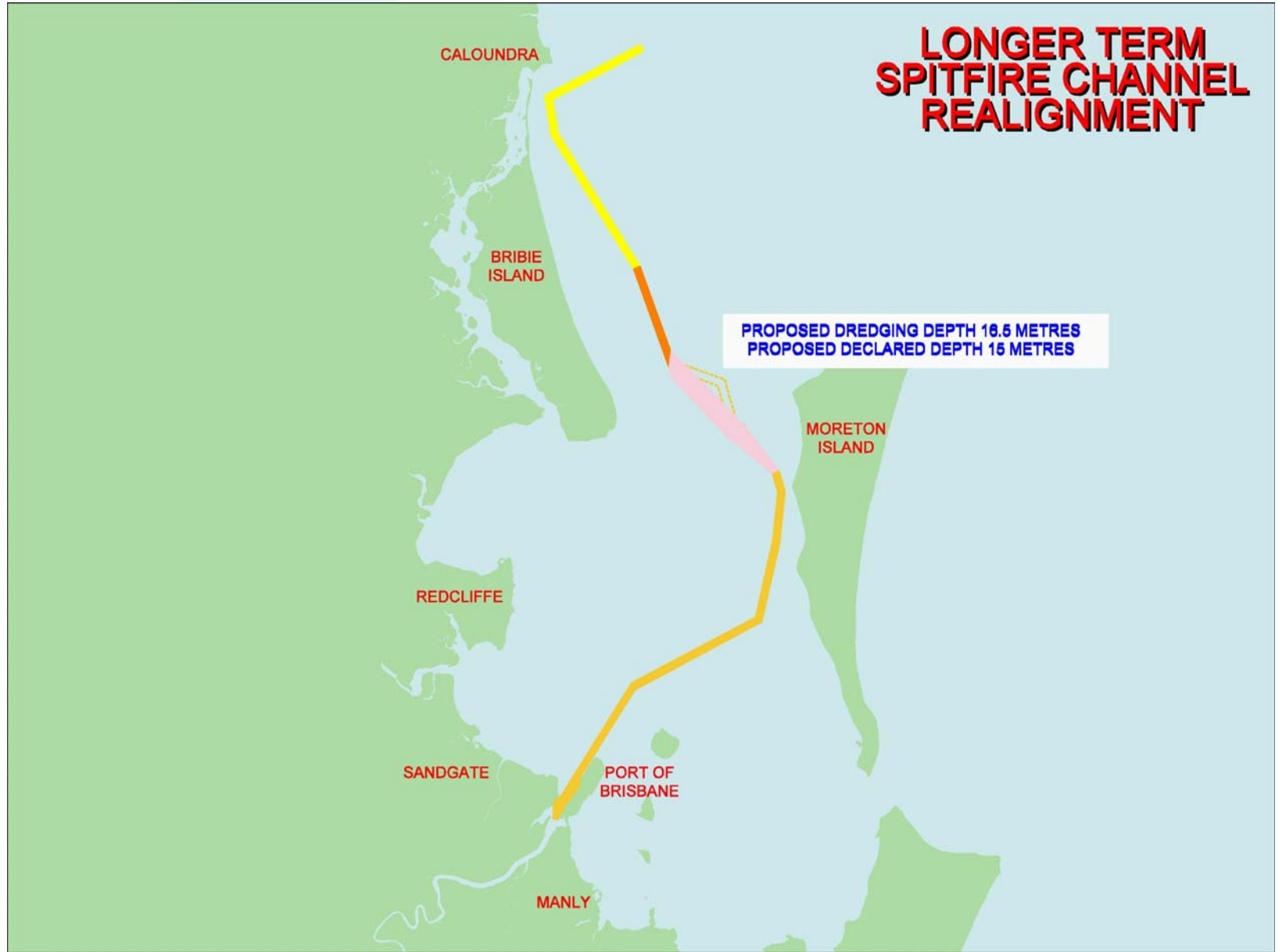
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# Sand Supply

Sand for FPE based on 20 to 25 years of maintenance dredging (sand)

- Increased port growth (6% to 12%)
- Increased need to “bring land on”
- Sand as most appropriate fill source
  - Environmental impact, cost, engineering properties
- Project timeline now 15 years
  - Shortfall in suitable fill
  - Opportunity to combine two projects



# Moving forward

- PBC to prepare an Initial advice statement for the development of the Terms of Reference (ToR) – consideration as a project of State Significance
  - Opportunity for government agency and community stakeholder input
  - Will include a consultation phase, and is likely to draw on the technical data already presented in the MBSES reports
  - Some additional works (project specific) are expected
- Timing ????????