

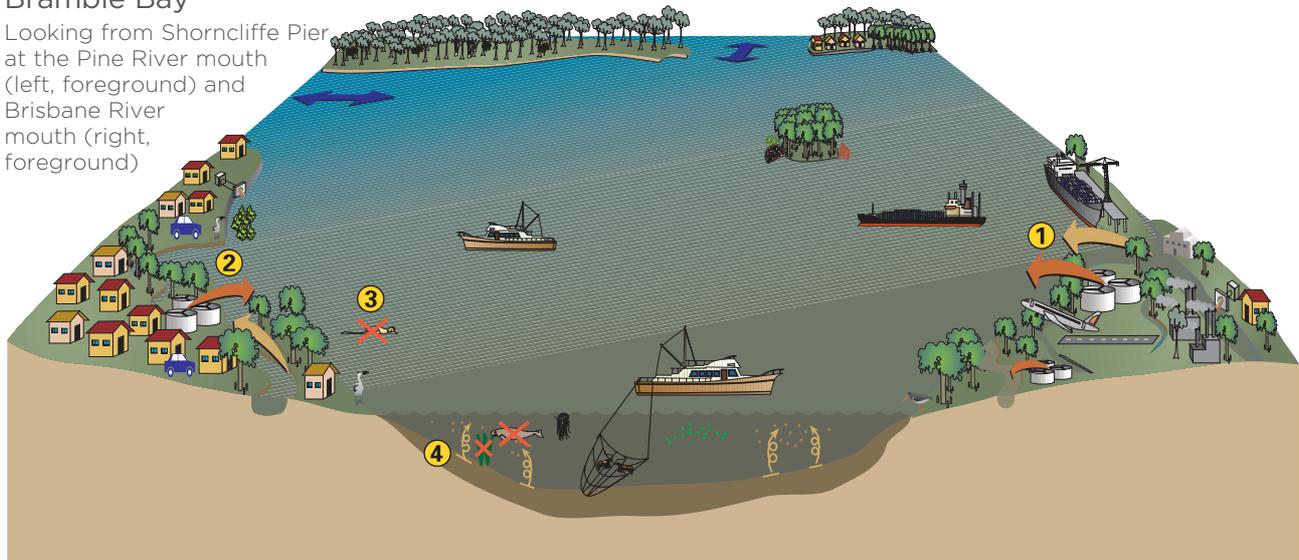
## Moreton Bay

Within Easy reach of Brisbane is beautiful Moreton Bay with its varied habitats and its rich wildlife. Although the eastern side remains healthy and diverse, all is not well in Moreton Bay – a brown murky tide is encroaching from the western shore, killing coral and seagrass

and driving away the fish, dugongs and other wildlife. Moreton Bay has an area of 1, 523km<sup>2</sup> and the population on the Bay islands is 7, 081. Moreton Bay is a Marine Park with National Park sections. It is also used for fishing, recreation and transport.

### Bramble Bay

Looking from Shorncliffe Pier at the Pine River mouth (left, foreground) and Brisbane River mouth (right, foreground)



**1** Catchment loads of sediment and nutrients from Brisbane and Pine Rivers

**2** Large sewage discharges, currently being upgraded

**3** High turbidity, nutrients and phytoplankton contribute to poor water quality - few people swim here now

**4** Seagrass loss caused by sediment resuspension

### Bramble Bay

Bramble Bay, in the north-west of Moreton Bay shows clear signs of poor health and imbalance because of human activity.

- The shallow waters turbid.
- Phytoplankton blooms often give the water a greenish tinge.
- There is no seagrass left here, and very little wildlife other than prawns and jellyfish.
- Water often becomes murky with sediment following heavy rainfall which is resuspended in the shallow areas by strong winds.

### Southern Moreton Bay

Southern Moreton Bay's network of channels create a series of low energy environments where the deposition of sands and muds has created extensive intertidal and shallow sub-tidal areas. Southern Moreton Bay is considered to be in moderate health:

- The water is turbid in the western sections from sediment from the Logan River.
- Loss of seagrass and wetlands (western part)
- Extensive seagrass beds in the network of channels (eastern part)
- The shoreline is lined with mangroves and saltmarsh.
- Some loss of mangroves due to hail damage.