

Terms of Reference

Review into the February 2025 Weather Event

Context

1. The City of Brisbane has throughout its history been the subject of intense seasonal weather events. In recent times, the two most significant events were the extensive floods experienced in 2011 and 2022. There have also been numerous incidents of more localised floods and strong winds.
2. As a result of the 2022 flooding event, Brisbane City Council (Council) announced an independent and comprehensive review be conducted by the Hon. Paul de Jersey AC CVO QC.
3. In response to the weather event described below, Council again seeks to have an independent review undertaken to ensure that Council continues to improve its ability to protect lives and property.

Purpose

4. The purpose of this review is to build on the outcomes from the 2022 Report while also addressing those aspects that were not relevant to Council in 2022 due to the differing nature of the two weather events.

The Weather Event

5. On 3 March 2025, South East Queensland was warned of the likelihood that Tropical Cyclone Alfred (TC Alfred), then a Category 2 system located over the Coral Sea, could make landfall between Double Island Point, Queensland and Grafton New South Wales.
6. Between 3 March and 8 March 2025, the region was warned that TC Alfred may cross as an upper-end Category 2 system or even potentially a lower-end Category 3 system.
7. On 8 March 2025, Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred was downgraded to a Tropical Low as it crossed the mainland coast, making landfall north of Brisbane at 9pm local time.

8. Ex TC Alfred then remained stationary in the vicinity of Bribie Island from 8 March to 9 March 2025, where it subjected Brisbane to heavy rain and strong winds. It eventually moved south and by 10 March 2025 the major effects of the weather system on Brisbane had dissipated.

Appointment and Scope

9. On 18 March 2025, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Cr Adrian Schrinner, announced that the Honourable Paul de Jersey would again undertake an independent and comprehensive review into Council's response to the Weather Event.
10. The review will address the following matters:
 - a. the extent to which the recommendations of the 2022 Review were met,
 - b. whether the outcomes from these recommendations were adequate,
 - c. how Council performed during the event in relation to any additional matters that were identified by Council as relevant due to the differing nature of this Weather Event.

Submissions

11. Mr de Jersey will be calling for written submissions from all Councillors, Council and all others at Mr de Jersey's discretion, in respect of the matters subject of the review, with written submissions to be provided to Mr de Jersey by close of business on 14 April 2025.

The Report

12. Mr de Jersey is required to produce a report addressing the above matters including any recommendations arising from the Terms of Reference which he considers as reasonable to improve the City's preparation and planning for future severe weather events.
13. The report is to be provided to the Lord Mayor on or before 12 May 2025. However, should Mr de Jersey require any further information on a particular matter that cannot be addressed in the above timeframe, this request should be made through the report and be addressed separately by Mr de Jersey after the provision of the material. This timing will enable any recommendations to be addressed prior to the next summer's storm season.

14. The report will be made public following its delivery to the Lord Mayor.