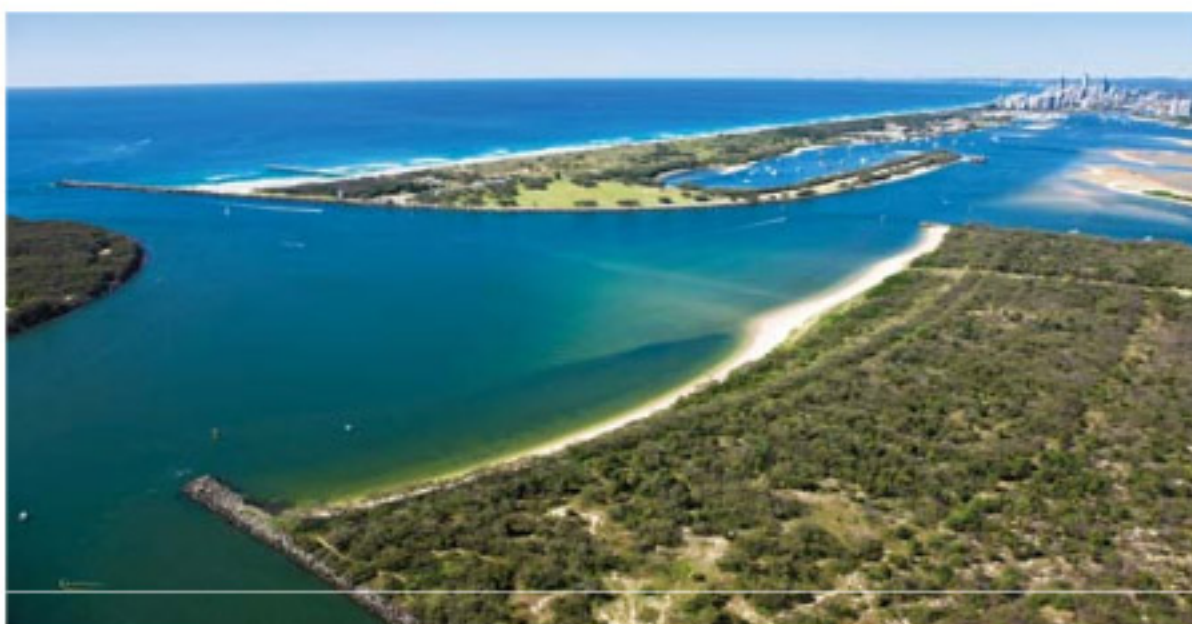


Wave Break Island

Wave Break Island was created in 1985 as part of the Gold Coast Seaway construction (see *The Gold Coast Seaway* information sheet). It was included in this project to protect the western foreshore of the Broadwater from waves that might penetrate the new, permanently stabilised entrance.

construction

Wave Break Island was evident as one of the Broadwater's tidal shoals or sandbanks before the 'dredging and training' works associated with the Gold Coast Seaway were undertaken; but was elevated using a share of 4.5 million cubic metres of sand that was dredged as part of these works. This sand was also used to close the old entrance of the Nerang River to the North, and build the western arm of Marine Stadium, or 'Bum's Bay'. The northern and southern ends of the island were bordered with rock walls to prevent erosion and to stabilise the sand that had been placed.



Aerial photo looking southeast over Wave Break Island
(Source: Skyepics 2011)



Hand spreading of mulch on Wave Break Island
(Source: GCCC 1986)

Revegetation

Following the sand placement to build Wave Break Island, revegetation activities were undertaken by the State Government. Bare sand areas were planted with a cover crop and then mulched with straw to prevent wind erosion. Native ground cover, shrubs and trees were then planted into this cover crop, and fertilised. Key species used in the revegetation include:

- ◆ Spinifex grass (*Spinifex sericus*)
- ◆ Goat's foot (*Ipomoea pescaprae*)
- ◆ Beach vinya (*Vigna marina*)
- ◆ Horsetail sheoak (*Casuarina equisetifolia*)
- ◆ Coastal banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*)
- ◆ Coastal wattle (*Acacia sophorae*)

By June 1986 over 10,000 shrub and tree seedlings had been planted. This vegetation has been left alone to establish in its natural form. The species planted in the 1980s are still the predominant species you can find on the island today.