

Moreton Bay Regional Council
ANNUAL REPORT 08-09
OUR NEW ERA



OUR NEW ERA - ONE



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OUR NEW ERA - ONE

In just 15 months, three councils have become one.

From 15 March, 2008, when residents voted for the first elected representatives in the brand new Moreton Bay Regional Council, to the end of our first full financial year on 30 June, 2009, uniting the operations of Caboolture Shire, Pine Rivers Shire and Redcliffe City Councils has been paramount to the success of our new local government.

Our new council – now the third largest in Australia – is responsible for meeting the needs of more than 350,000 residents across 2,011 square kilometres.

Diverse coastal, urban, rural and hinterland communities are covered, from Bribie Island and Redcliffe in the east and Mount Mee, Mount Glorious and Mount Pleasant in the west to Bellthorpe in the north and the Hills District in the south.

Our Mayor and 12 Divisional Councillors have worked with more than 2,260 staff to maintain or improve the service standards of the former councils while forging a new council identity and developing key projects that will serve our region into the future.

All residents of Moreton Bay region are “shareholders” in council and this first annual report will provide insight into council’s operations between 15 March, 2008 and 30 June, 2009. It also presents milestones achieved during this period and an indication of our future plans.

One council – one logo

The Moreton Bay Regional Council logo with its three sweeps of colour owes its character to the contributions of many residents.

The logo was developed in early 2009 after an extensive consultation process to find out what being part of Moreton Bay region means to the people who live and work here. Seen on council projects, buildings, cars and facilities, the new logo’s broad sweeps of colour grow bolder as they move from left to right – reflecting the strength of our region as we progress.



Each of the three colours symbolises important regional characteristics:



The green frond represents our environmental assets and spectacular mountain ranges

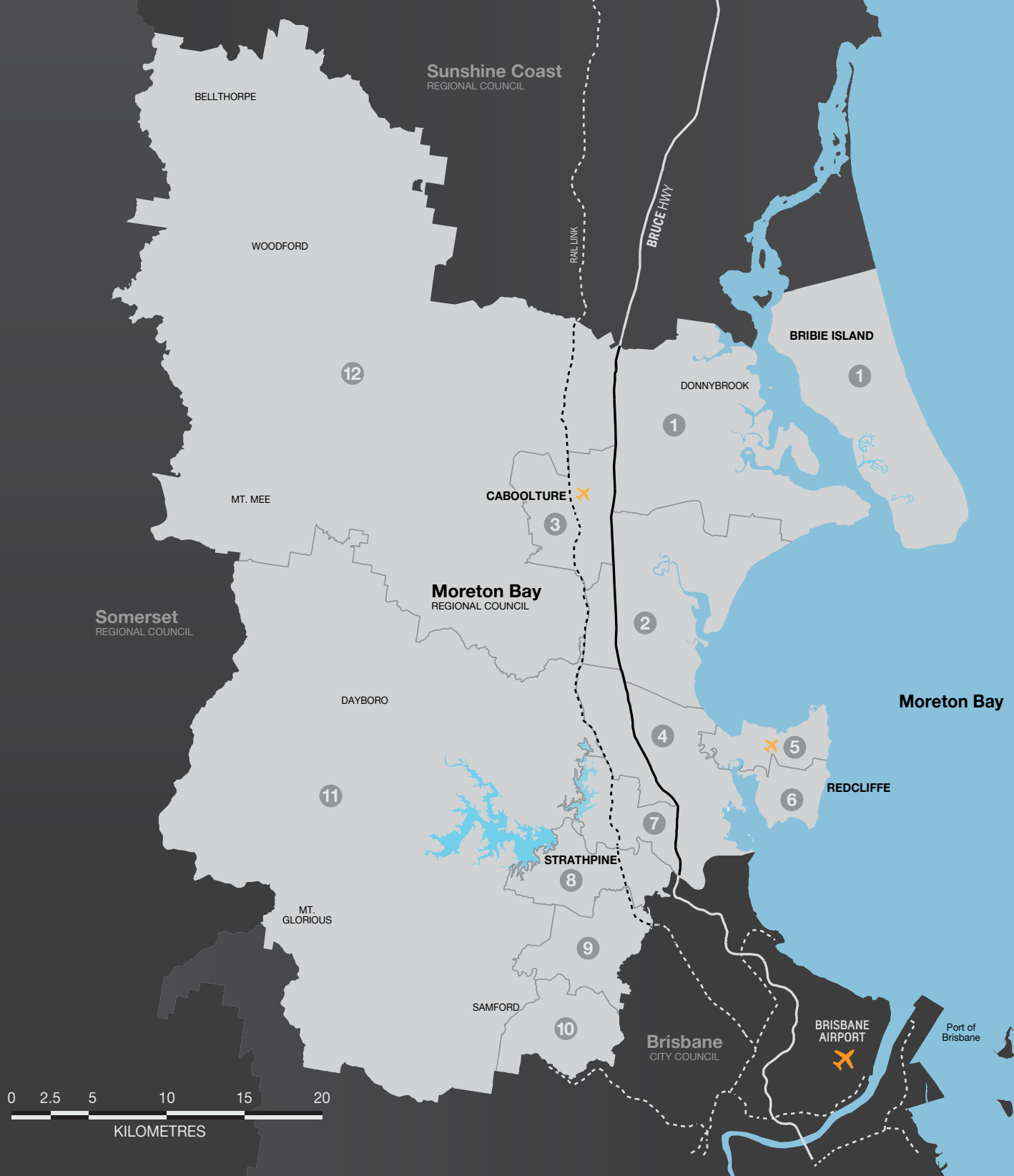


The orange sweep and dots depict our dynamic communities, our coastal areas and sunshine



The blue wave signifies Moreton Bay and our waterways.

Already, people are recognising Moreton Bay region through our logo, which is helping to promote the area and attract and enhance tourism and commercial opportunities.



Between the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane, Moreton Bay region is one of the fastest developing areas in Queensland. With an estimated growth of nearly four per cent a year, our region is expected to reach half a million people in less than 20 years.

What's more, we're a culturally diverse population with more than 1,450 people from 77 different countries taking part in council's Australian citizenship ceremonies in the 15 months to 30 June. The region has 12 internal electoral divisions, set by the Electoral Commission of Queensland. Each division contains an average of 18,233 voters, based on August 2007 enrolment figures.

Our 12 councillors each represent the interests of residents and businesses within a geographical division, as well as the overall public interest of Moreton Bay region.

Our Vision

A region of opportunity where sustainable communities enjoy work, recreation and lifestyle.

Our Mission

We serve the community while focusing on excellence and sustainability.

Our Values

Council proudly upholds the following values in its daily operations with customers, external partners and staff:

Respect

- We listen to people
- We treat people fairly and consistently
- We embrace diversity and opinions
- We treat others as we wish to be treated

Service

- We seek to understand the needs of those we serve
- We strive to exceed expectations
- We communicate clearly
- We take a positive approach
- We are proud to serve our community

Integrity

- We are ethical and honest
- We take responsibility for our actions
- We act within statute and law
- We take pride in the manner in which we perform our duties

Teamwork

- We promote a friendly, supportive work environment
- We inspire and encourage innovation
- We develop and maintain relationships
- We work collectively to achieve common goals
- We work collaboratively with our community and external partners

Sustainability

- We focus on the future
- We respect the environment
- We demonstrate leadership by example

At a Glance

A snapshot of Moreton Bay Regional Council, as at 30 June, 2009

Estimated population	356,709 (as at 30 June, 2008)
Number of rateable properties	140,811
Number of properties exempt from rates	5,301
Total number of council staff	2,269
Gross wages for the 15 months to 30 June	\$180 million
Total loan debt	\$269 million
Debt level calculated per resident	\$742
Grants received – financial assistance	\$18,013,598
Total gross rates and charges	\$334.5 million less pensioner and other rebates of \$7.5 million

Key financial statistics for the 15 months to 30 June, 2009

Net rate revenue	\$327 million
Fees and charges received	\$55.3 million
Total operating revenue	\$458.4 million
Operating expenses	\$519.4 million
Borrowing costs	\$13.6 million
Net result	\$3.67 billion
Operating result	\$60.9 million (loss)
Capital projects	\$415.7 million
Net cash generated by operating activities	\$22.1 million

Financial position at 30 June, 2009

Total assets	\$4.6 billion
Total liabilities	\$360.4 million
Total equity	\$4.24 billion
Reserves	\$238.4 million

Number of Development Approvals to 30 June, 2009

MATERIAL CHANGE OF USE	RECONFIGURING A LOT	OPERATIONAL WORKS	TOTAL
457	214	289	960

Number of Lots Endorsed (by type) to 30 June, 2009

RESIDENTIAL (INCLUDING RURAL RESIDENTIAL)	RURAL	INDUSTRIAL	COMMERCIAL	OTHER	TOTAL
5258	145	220	180	155	5958



Mayor's Report

The period since the amalgamation of local governments in Queensland has been one of unprecedented change.

At Moreton Bay Regional Council, we've embraced a new era.

Our transformation into the third largest council in Australia has proved both exciting and challenging, but in 15 months we've created a united, dynamic organisation serving the interests of our diverse communities.

To allow us to operate as one council, we've had to think as one council. We couldn't have done it without the dedication of councillors, the commitment of our staff and the support of the broader community.

Two annual budgets – the first only three months after amalgamation – have provided the scope to create substantial foundations.

While there have been significant costs involved in merging three councils, as an amalgamated body we've already been able to deliver around \$10 million in operational savings. In our 2008/09 budget we announced

a capital works program that injected \$329 million into key projects and infrastructure.

Already we're beginning to see the benefits of such spending with the delivery of the new Woody Point Jetty at Redcliffe, the early stages of construction at Caboolture's State Equestrian Centre, and the development of Samford Parklands. Work has commenced on increasing the capacity of the Murrumba Downs Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Burpengary East Wastewater Treatment Plant while a substantial upgrade at Youngs Crossing has improved road safety at Warner.

The 2009/2010 budget contained a \$320 million capital works program that will continue to build and support our communities.

A major development for the year ahead will be the progress of three signature construction projects at Caboolture, Brendale and Redcliffe. These projects will invigorate our business precincts by creating jobs and providing a catalyst for further urban renewal.

Our challenge is to do this in a cost-effective, efficient way, working with our communities and other tiers of government to make a real difference for all who call Moreton Bay region home.

Allan Sutherland
Mayor

* Cr Sutherland previously served as a councillor for Redcliffe City Council between 1994 and March 2008. He was elected Mayor of Redcliffe City Council in 2004.



CEO's Report

Moreton Bay Regional Council is rapidly evolving to meet the needs of our growing communities.

The reform process was well in train before our new council began operating in March, 2008, but even now there's still more to be done to align the many aspects of council's business.

The past 15 months has been a period of great change and while change can be confronting, it can also present many opportunities to develop new and better ways of working.

We've been concentrating on "getting it right" by setting up a proper framework for our organisation.

By assessing our resources and requirements we've been able to develop more effective and efficient work practices.

We now have a permanent organisational structure, a corporate plan, and an operational plan for the next financial year to help us meet the needs of the community.

We also have a logo that readily identifies our region, our organisation and our achievements.

The next step is to continue building a strong and sustainable council where a focus on excellence drives the organisation.

We are conscious that we are working to support a region that values its natural environment, its recreational opportunities and its potential for growth.

We are also conscious of our impact on our environment and of the need to ensure our practices are sustainable ones.

The journey ahead will be challenging, but full of opportunities.

It will involve building stronger ties with our communities while working in partnership with various organisations to create a brighter future for our region.



John Rauber
Chief Executive Officer

Elected Representatives

Cr Gary Parsons

DIVISION 1

Representing Banksia Beach, Bellara, Bongaree, Donnybrook, Godwin Beach, Meldale, Ningi, Sandstone Point, Toorbul, Welsby, White Patch, Woorim and parts of Caboolture and Elimbah.

Cr Parsons was a member of Caboolture Shire Council from October 2002 until March 2008.

Spokesperson for

- Parks
- Recreation
- Sport

Cr Chris Whiting

DIVISION 2

Representing Beachmere, Burpengary, parts of Caboolture East, Deception Bay and parts of Morayfield.

Cr Whiting was a member of Caboolture Shire Council from 2000 until March 2008.

Cr Greg Chippendale

DEPUTY MAYOR

DIVISION 3

Representing Caboolture, Caboolture South, Morayfield, parts of Bellmere and Moodlu.

Cr Chippendale was a member of Caboolture Shire Council from 1997 and was appointed Deputy Mayor in 2000.

Cr Julie Greer

DIVISION 4

Representing North Lakes, Mango Hill, Griffin, Dakabin, parts of Kallangur, Deception Bay, Burpengary and Narangba.

Cr Greer was appointed to Pine Rivers Shire Council at a special meeting in April 2007.

Cr James Houghton

DIVISION 5

Representing Redcliffe (north), Scarborough, Newport, Kippa-Ring (north) and Rothwell.

Cr Houghton was a Redcliffe alderman from 1973 to 1976. He was re-elected to Redcliffe City Council in 2004.

Cr Rae Frawley

DIVISION 6

Representing Clontarf, Woody Point, Margate, Redcliffe (south), and Kippa-Ring (south).

Cr Frawley was a Redcliffe City Councillor from 2004 until March 2008.

Spokesperson for

- Sustainability

Cr Chris Whiting
DIVISION 2

Cr Julie Greer
DIVISION 4

Cr Rae Frawley
DIVISION 6

Cr Gary Parsons
DIVISION 1

Cr Greg Chippendale
DEPUTY MAYOR - DIVISION 3

Cr James Houghton
DIVISION 5



Cr David Dwyer

DIVISION 7

Representing Petrie, Kallangur, Murrumba Downs and Kurwongbah.

Cr Dwyer was a member of Pine Rivers Shire Council from 1994 until March 2008.

Spokesperson for

- Lifestyle and amenity

Cr Mick Gillam

DIVISION 8

Representing Strathpine (east), Bray Park, Lawnton, Joyner, Cashmere (north) and Warner (north).

Cr Gillam served as a Pine Rivers Shire Councillor from 1994 to March 2008.

Spokesperson for

- Operations

Cr Mike Charlton

DIVISION 9

Representing Albany Creek, Brendale, Eatons Hill, Strathpine (west) and Warner (south).

Cr Charlton served on Pine Rivers Shire Council from 1994 to March 2008.

Spokesperson for

- Strategic and Planning

Cr Brian Battersby

DIVISION 10

Representing The Hills District (Arana Hills, Everton Hills, Ferny Hills) Bunya and southwest Albany Creek.

Cr Battersby has served as a councillor since 1976 and was appointed Pine Rivers Shire Council's Deputy Mayor in March 2007.

Spokesperson for

- Commercial Enterprises

Cr Bob Millar

DIVISION 11

Representing Armstrong Creek, Camp Mountain, Cedar Creek, Clear Mountain, Closeburn, Dayboro, Draper, Highvale, Jollys Lookout, King Scrub, Kobbie Creek, Lacey's Creek, Mount Glorious, Mount Nebo, Mount Pleasant, Mount Samson, Ocean View, Rush Creek, Samford, Samford Valley, Samsonvale, Whiteside, Wights Mountain, Yugar and parts of Burpengary, Cashmere, Kurwongbah, Moorina and Narangba.

Cr Millar was a member of Pine Rivers Shire Council from 2000 until March 2008.

Spokesperson for

- Corporate Support

Cr Adrian Raedel

DIVISION 12

Representing parts of Bellmere, Bellthorpe, Boorobin, Bracalba, parts of Burpengary, Campbells Pocket, parts of Caboolture, Cedarton, Commissioners Flat, D'Aguiar, Delaney's Creek, Elimbah, Moodlu, Mount Delaney, Mount Mee, parts of Morayfield, Moorina, Neurum, Rocksberg, Stanmore, Stony Creek, Upper Caboolture, Wamuran Basin, Wamuran and Woodford.

This is Cr Raedel's first term as a councillor.

Chair of the audit committee.

Cr Mick Gillam
DIVISION 8

Cr Brian Battersby
DIVISION 10

Cr Adrian Raedel
DIVISION 12

Cr David Dwyer
DIVISION 7

Cr Mike Charlton
DIVISION 9

Cr Bob Millar
DIVISION 11



One council

When Moreton Bay Regional Council opened its doors on 17 March, 2008, months of earlier preparation ensured the new council was easily accessible to residents. However, further work is needed to continue transforming the services and procedures of the former councils into one system for one organisation. Below is a list of some of the areas where change has occurred or is under way as a direct result of amalgamation.

Development applications

Although three planning schemes are still in place across the region, council has worked to simplify its development application fees. After extensive assessment, 740 Material Change of Use fees have been refined and aligned into 156 fees dealing with various aspects of development.

A new region-wide process for prelodgement meetings has been introduced. Prelodgement meetings allow prospective applicants and senior council staff to discuss development proposals before they are formally submitted. Feedback showed that 72 per cent of customers rated the service as excellent while 28 per cent rated it as good.

The Certification Professionals

Council's "one-stop shop" for approval and building inspection services grew as a direct result of amalgamation, with new offices opened in Caboolture and Redcliffe.

Local Laws

Council is progressing its review of local laws and subordinate laws inherited from the former councils. These laws cover a diverse range of issues and operations including regulated parking, parks/reserves/foreshores, use of roads, animals and administration.

A comparison of 106 existing local laws has been completed and work will continue in 2009/10 on creating a set of laws that achieve greater uniformity across Moreton Bay region. Once the new laws are in place, existing laws that are no longer valid will be repealed.

Cemeteries

Administration of council's eight Moreton Bay region cemeteries was centralised to provide a consistent level of service across the region.

An online cemetery database was also established which provides records of people interred in council facilities, including several historical cemeteries no longer used for burials.

Looking ahead, a new regional cemeteries policy will take effect from 1 July, 2009.



Records

The three former councils had different methods and systems for keeping track of council documents and data. During council's first 15 months, a comprehensive review was conducted so that efficient new organisation-wide systems and databases could be designed and implemented. New unified systems include:

- Financial operations to begin operating from 1 July, 2009.
- A property and ratings system to be launched in December 2009.
- An electronic document records management system, that will handle all correspondence with customers and all council documents. It is expected to be launched in early 2010.
- A corporate asset maintenance and management system.
- Payroll operations.
- Geographical Information Systems.
- A performance planning system.
- A Library Management System which will provide customers online access to an easy-to-use library catalogue.



Fees and Charges

In November 2008, council started a project to streamline the documentation and review of fees and charges for the 2010 financial year to ensure all processes were efficient and met legislative requirements. Council now provides up-to-date fees and charges listings on its website www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Standard Drawings

Engineering Standard Drawings are being developed for both council and non-council infrastructure construction projects. A "best of the best" approach is being taken, employing elements from each of the three former councils' drawings, to respond to the needs of civil engineers dealing with the new organisation.

Council is also part of a multi-council review team set up by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia Queensland (IPWEAQ) to produce ongoing updates to Standard Drawings for use in South-East Queensland. The aim is to create state-wide Engineering Standard Drawings.

Corporate Structure

Mayor and Councillors

Chief Executive Officer



Governance

Legal Services

Directors



Corporate Services
and Deputy CEO



Asset Planning
and Delivery



Asset Maintenance
and Construction



Environment
and Local Laws

Responsibilities

Financial and Project Services	Infrastructure Delivery North	Buildings and Facilities	Building and Plumbing Services
Human Resources	Infrastructure Delivery South	Parks	Business Support and Governance
Information Services	Infrastructure Budget and Programming	Roads and Drains	Environmental Health
Customer Services	Strategic Infrastructure Planning	Business Systems	
Media, Marketing and Communication		Fleet Services	

Kevin Denison served as Director – Enterprises until 3 February, 2009. Simon Banfield served as Director – Community and Cultural Services until 17 April, 2009. Graeme Emmerson served as Director – Asset Maintenance and Construction until 3 July, 2009. *Peter Scott was appointed Deputy Chief Executive Officer/Chief Financial Officer of the Northern SEQ Distributor – Retailer Authority on 26 October, 2009.

Our Executive Team

The Local Government Workforce Transition Code of Practice required amalgamated local governments to adopt a new organisational structure within twelve months of changeover day (15 March, 2008). Moreton Bay Regional Council adopted its structure in September 2008. The structure will continue to be reviewed and developed to ensure it meets customer service needs.



*Peter Scott

Community and Cultural Services

Executive Services



Chris Warren

Strategic Planning and Development



Alan Sheridan

Major Projects

Community Services
Planning and Development

Community Facilities
Sport and Recreation

Special Projects

Cultural Services

Events

Libraries

Moreton Bay Water

Development Services

Regional Planning

Sustainability Services

Caboolture Library,
Learning Centre and
Art Gallery

Redcliffe Shopping Village
Rejuvenation Project

Brendale
Commercial Development

Our People

Recognition for excellence

Moreton Bay Regional Council's experienced workforce is gaining a reputation for innovation and leadership. Below is a list of award-winning highlights during the reporting period:

April 2008 – Council's Redcaps team won state and national titles in the 2008 Local Government Managers of Australia (LGMA) Local Government Challenge. The program is designed to develop management skills and the Redcaps comprised John Mitchell, Carol Booker, Jane Frawley, Carly Jeavons, Cecily Draper and Jaclyn Schokman with Dave West as mentor.

May 2008 – Council's Senior Manager Regional and Environmental Planning Leo Jensen was announced as Young Manager of the Year for Leadership and Management Excellence at the Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) Queensland's 2008 awards.

June 2008 – MBRC receives Spectrum Employment Services' Outstanding Employment Opportunities award for employers who recognise the benefits of employing a person with a disability and their commitment to help others.

June 2008 – Council's E-Team environmental education program is shortlisted as a finalist in the Local Government Best Specific Environmental Initiative category in the United Nations of Australia World Environment Day Awards.

July 2008 – Ergon Energy Tidy Towns Regional Awards

- Redcliffe – Grundfos Sustainable City Award
- Redcliffe – Queensland Young Legends Award
- Caboolture – Sustainable Solutions Award
- Dayboro – Grundfos Pumps Water Conservation Award
- Bribie Island – OneSteel Recycling Partnership Award

September 2008 – Ergon Energy Tidy Towns State Awards

- Caboolture – Sustainable Solutions Award recognising creative activities or projects that have sustainability as their focus.

October 2008 – Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia Queensland (IPWEAQ) Awards

- Margate Urban Village Redevelopment Project – Projects Over \$1M – Highly Recommended Award
- Mobile GIS – Footpath Condition Rating & Hazard System – Asset Management Projects Award
- The Road Safety Partnership Project – Innovation Award Commendation

- Best Paper Award - Jason Deller
- Moodlu Quarry Offstream Storage – Water Projects Above \$5M Award
- President's Award in Recognition of Service to IPWEAQ – Damien McMahon

October 2008 – Road Safety Partnership Project wins the local government category at the Queensland Road Safety Awards.

November 2008 – Godwin Beach Environmental Reserve's Cultural Heritage Management Plan receives meritorious recognition at the Planning Institute Australia (Qld division) Awards for Planning Excellence.

December 2008 – Council and Education Queensland were Engaging & Service Communities finalists – 2008 Premier's Awards for Excellence in Public Sector Management for the joint initiative to develop a high performing educational community hub.

December 2008 – Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Challenge Awards

- Suttons Beach – partnerships award

June 2009 – Council's Shorebird Management Program was shortlisted as a finalist in two categories in the United Nations Australia World Environment Day Awards – Best Specific Environmental Initiative, and Excellence in Marine and Coastal Management.

At 30 June, 2009, Moreton Bay Regional Council employed 2,269 staff.

Most were employees of the former councils. The chart below provides a breakdown of staff and their years of service. Under council's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policy, all staff members are treated on their merits.

Staff Length Of Service

