



Moreton Bay Regional Council

BUDGET **2008**
2009



Mayor's Message

On behalf of my fellow councillors, it is an honour to present the first ever budget of Moreton Bay Regional Council.

It is no exaggeration to say the past financial year was the most significant in the history of local government in Queensland. Only 15 weeks ago, the former local governments of Redcliffe, Pine Rivers and Caboolture were amalgamated to create Moreton Bay Regional Council, the third largest local authority in Australia.

As we all know, 15 March heralded a new era in the provision of local government services across our community.

Since that time, Councillors and council officers have worked hard to formulate a financial blueprint for our new region – one that is responsive to the needs of our dynamic area yet fiscally responsible.

This budget has been developed amid an economic climate that is having an impact on businesses large and small. Local governments are certainly not immune to such pressure – with hikes in fuel prices, increases in

water costs and spiralling construction and material prices having a direct effect on council's bottom line.

However, I am extremely proud to announce that despite these challenges, the 2008/09 budget addresses the needs of residents – current and future – and delivers the largest capital works program ever undertaken across the collective areas of Caboolture, Pine Rivers and Redcliffe.

Even better is the fact that this council approached its first budget with its belt well and truly tightened. As a result, we have managed to keep the average increase in total residential rates and charges well below local government industry expectations while still ensuring a very strong financial position for the new council.

During the coming years we will be doing everything we can to ensure this part of South-East Queensland remains an attractive and affordable place to live. Given that we are one of Australia's fastest growing regions, keeping our eyes firmly focused on the future will be an essential part of our business.

We will also be striving to make sure the newly amalgamated Moreton Bay Regional Council is truly working for you. There is a fair expectation in the community that amalgamation will deliver operational efficiencies and savings. It is our intention to make sure your expectation becomes a reality.

I thank my fellow councillors for the spirit of cooperation, commitment and community focus that is proving to be a driving force of this organisation. I also thank staff at all levels for their strong desire to work in partnership with elected representatives for the betterment of our region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Sutherland'.

**Cr Allan Sutherland
Mayor**

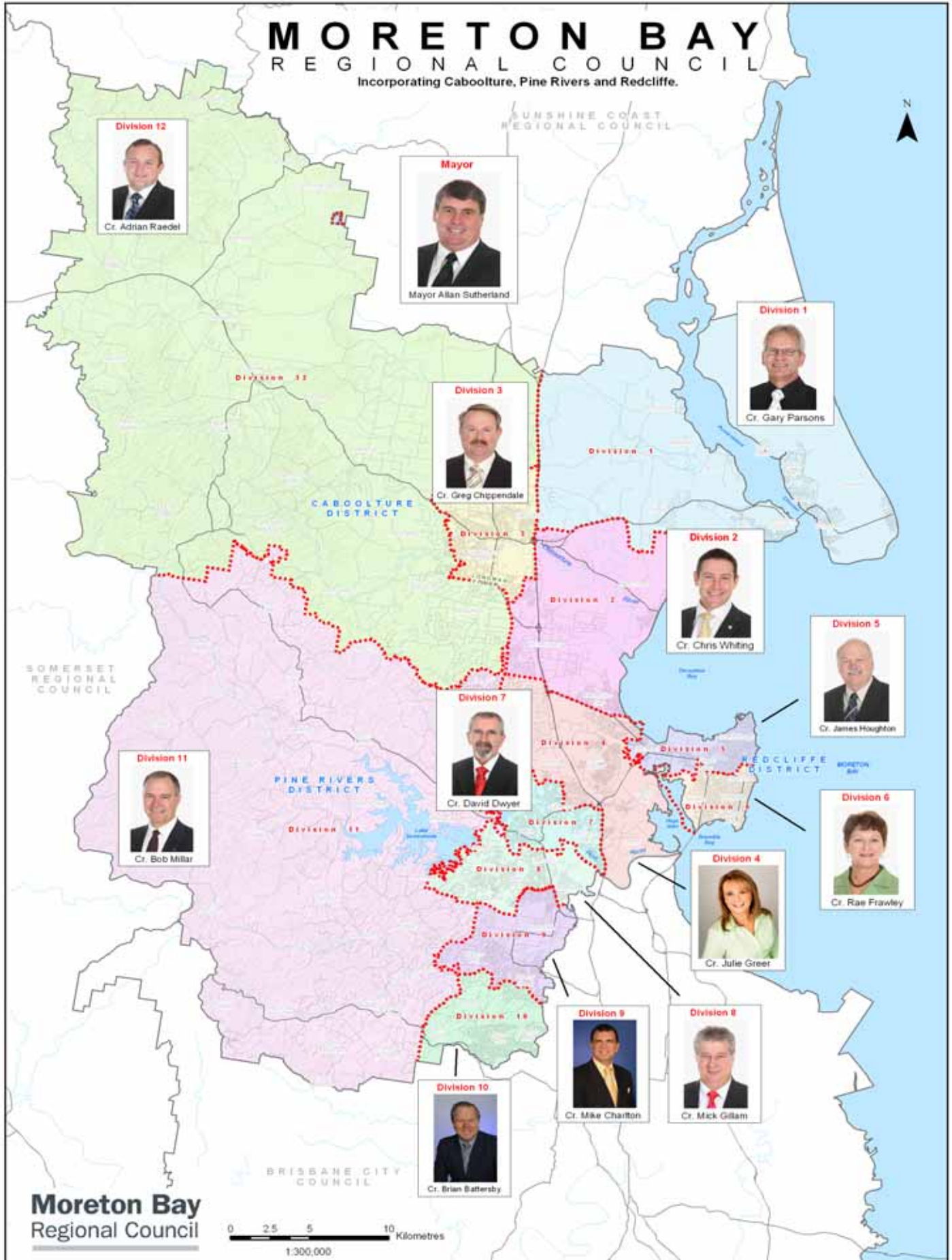


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