



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

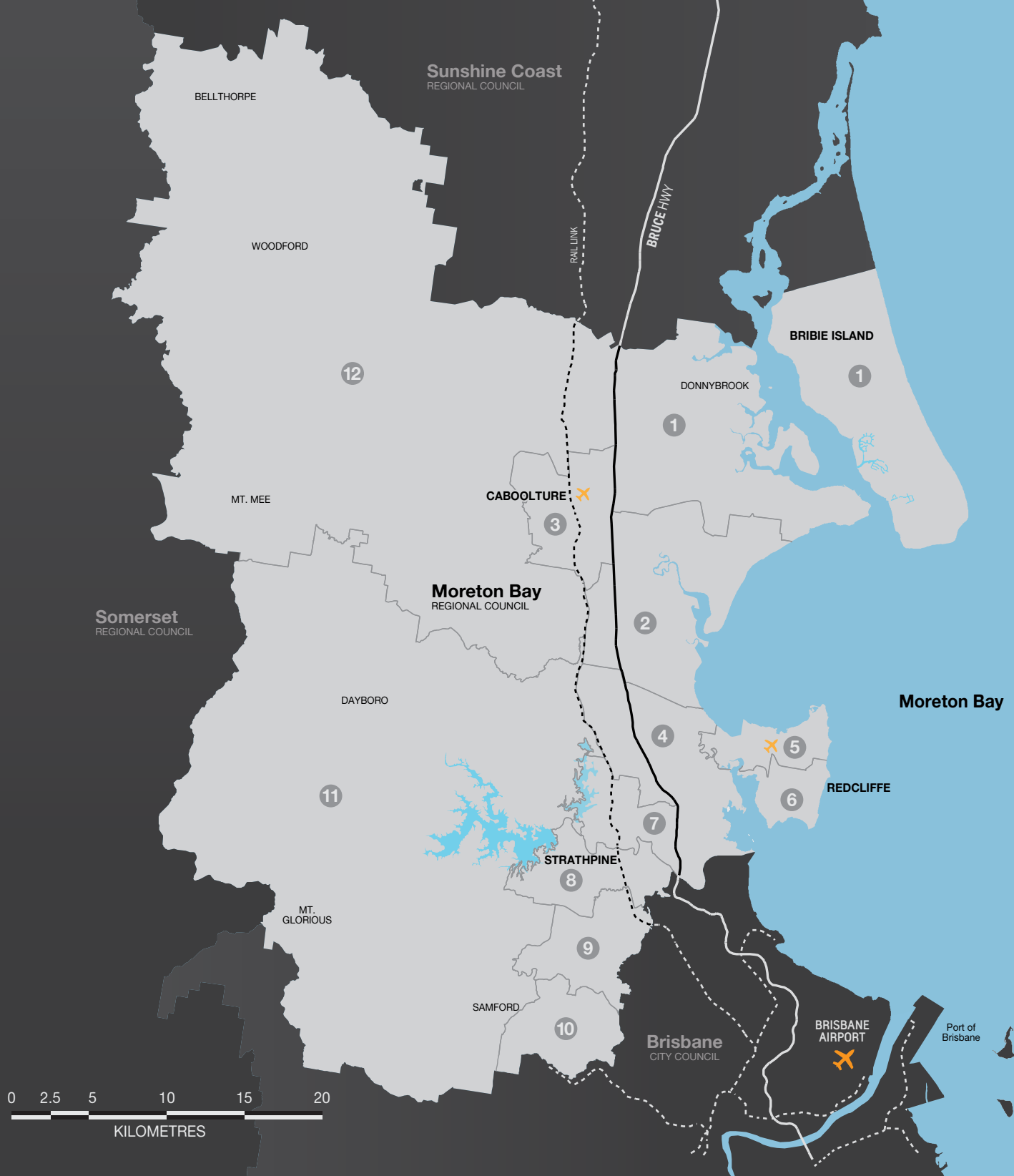


The orange sweep and dots depict our dynamic communities, our coastal areas and sunshine



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

Human Resources

Information Services

Customer Services

Media, Marketing
and Communication

Infrastructure
Delivery North

Infrastructure
Delivery South

Infrastructure Budget
and Programming

Strategic Infrastructure
Planning

Buildings and Facilities

Parks

Roads and Drains

Business Systems

Fleet Services

Building and
Plumbing Services

Business Support and
Governance

Environmental Health

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

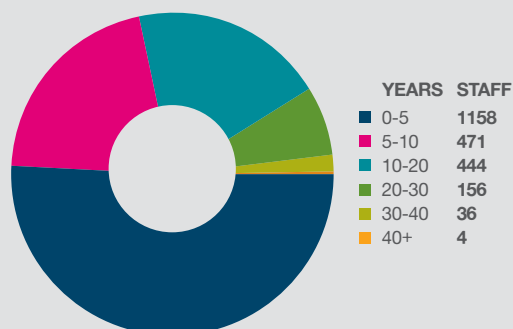
- Suttons Beach – partnerships award

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



Our Community

#Healthy lifestyle opportunities for **all ages**





Our Community

One of council's key aims is for local communities to take pride in being part of Moreton Bay region.

By working to create safe, harmonious communities that have access to high quality council services, healthy lifestyle choices and a broad range of creative and cultural opportunities, council is providing the scope for this pride to develop.

Many initiatives are legacies of the former councils. However, the new council has worked to build on events and projects to take the region into a new era.

Time to celebrate

The region's much loved council-organised celebrations are now an integral part of our new council's events calendar. These include Redcliffe's Festival of Sails (held over the Easter weekend) and First Settlement Festival in September, Caboolture's Urban Country Music Festival held over the May long weekend and the Pine Rivers Festival in late May and early June. These events provide social and cultural experiences for residents, help promote the region and have a positive impact on local economies. All four events will be held again in 2009/10, with plans to expand the First Settlement Festival so it covers two days of action.

Unfortunately poor weather in early December forced in the cancellation of the 2008 Pine Rivers Christmas parade and concert, but planning for the 2009 event is already well under way. Sunshine ensured that 10,000 flocked to the Family Fun Day held at Centenary Lakes, Caboolture, on the Brisbane Ekka holiday in August, to enjoy a day of mostly free activities and entertainment.

Recognising our quiet achievers

Many members of our community contribute to making our neighbourhoods, suburbs and townships dynamic yet safe places in which to live and raise families. Council supported and recognised their tireless efforts through:

- **The inaugural Moreton Bay Region Australia Day Awards.** The awards attracted 64 nominations and paid tribute to community, sporting, cultural and environmental achievements. Our first Citizen of the Year is Redcliffe Area Youth Service manager Jarryd Williams and our first Young Citizen of the Year is Louise Parkes of Caboolture, who has been deeply involved in volunteer work with Police Citizens Youth Clubs since 2003.
- **Chaplaincy breakfasts.** More than \$75,000 was raised in 2008 through three breakfasts for the Scripture Union's school chaplaincy program. Breakfasts were held in Caboolture, Redcliffe and Kallangur and were generously supported by local communities.
- **Community Volunteers' Day.** Council hosted an event to recognise community group volunteers in Moreton Bay region. More than 200 people representing more than 100 different groups attended celebrations at Centenary Lakes in Caboolture and council plans to hold a similar event at Pine Rivers Park in Strathpine in October, 2009.

Our vital volunteers

More than 1,700 volunteers helped ensure the smooth running of many of council's projects, events, services and initiatives during our first year.

Of these volunteers, more than 500 were connected to Bushcare groups throughout the region, 183 were part of other environment-focused groups and activities, more than 220 helped out in museums, art galleries and cultural centres and 185 were involved in operating council's visitor information centre network.

Significant numbers of volunteers were connected to hall management committees, services for the aged and disability care, council's libraries and helping host major council-organised events.

The enthusiasm and dedication of all volunteers helps make Moreton Bay region a more friendly, community-spirited place.



A new era for arts and culture

The new council has heralded a new era for arts in Moreton Bay region through the development and expansion of major initiatives. Council's aim is to create a region with a vibrant cultural life which values heritage and creativity.

- Regional Arts Development Funding (RADF) was awarded to 45 projects to support the region's cultural community. The fund – with a total budget for the year of \$170,000 – is a joint initiative of Moreton Bay Regional Council and the Queensland Government. It provides money towards establishing innovative arts projects and promotes professional development and employment of arts and cultural workers.

From 30 June, 2009, the three committees, which assessed the funding applications, are being disbanded and a consolidated program for Moreton Bay region will begin. The state government provides funding to councils proportionately, with smaller councils receiving a higher percentage of funding. To maintain funding for the arts and cultural community at pre-amalgamation levels, council has already announced it will raise its contribution towards the fund by \$17,000 next financial year to maintain the total annual RADF budget at \$170,000.

- Moreton Bay Region has its own art and youth art awards. The inaugural **Moreton Bay Regional Art Awards** received 280 entries. The winners of three \$5,000 prizes were Jennifer Redmond, of Samford, for her painting *Across the Valley*, Jemima Wyman from Arana Hills for her photographic work *More Jungle than Paradise* and Bundaberg artist Ariella Anderson for her sculpture *Me'Shee*. The **Moreton Bay Region Youth Art Awards** attracted around 450 works from 60 schools and Bribie Island student Aaron Butt took out the People's Choice Award for his painting *The Joker*, which depicted Heath Ledger's character in the recent Batman movie *The Dark Knight*. Both awards will be held again in 2010.



Making our heritage accessible

Redcliffe Museum attracted more than 16,000 visitors during the 15 months to June 2009 and presented a diverse range of exhibitions during the time including *Glamour: The Lorna Doherty Textile Collection*, that ran from September to November 2008 and *1824 – The Archaeology of First Settlement* which opened in June 2009. Council has developed a website that will bring together information about Redcliffe's first settlement history that can be accessed at www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/1824settlement

The museum has also been heavily involved with a joint council and Q150-funded project investigating a range of potential first settlement sites in Redcliffe. A council-funded dig will be held in September 2009, to search for the remains of a convict-built kiln in Redcliffe's Corscadden Park.

Proposed by the Rotary Club of Samford Valley as a community celebration for their international centenary, the Samford Village Heritage Trail was developed by volunteers at the Samford District Historical Museum. Council launched the 1.3-kilometre stroll through Samford Village on Queensland Day, 2009. The trail takes in 13 sites along Main and Station Streets and a brochure, available through council's Creative Moreton website, provides information about each of the sites including the railway yards, John Scott Park, Samford Hotel, and the Samford Rural Fire Brigade.

- Council employed independent contractors Brecknock Consulting to examine the region's cultural services, facilities and communities. The research gathered will provide a vital insight into the region's strengths and needs and will provide the foundation for council's cultural strategy to be launched in the next financial year.
- **Creative Moreton**, an online portal to arts, culture and heritage was launched in May 2009. This website, www.creativemoreton.org.au profiles creative people and organisations across the entire Moreton Bay region and is a great hub for community arts and culture. Visitors to the site can sign up for an email to keep up to date with happenings across the region.
- Moreton Bay Regional Council's artwork collection contains more than 800 pieces. Selected works formed a special exhibition titled *I know what I like*. Respected community leaders were invited to choose their favourite pieces from the collection. After an initial showing at Redcliffe Art Gallery in March the exhibition was featured at Bribie Island Community Arts Centre in April and will be on display in Strathpine's Pine Rivers Art Gallery in October 2009.



- **Food for Thought**, a monthly professional development program for artists and arts workers, was extended across the region. Sessions such as Basics of Exhibiting, The Art of Sustainable Business and Websites for Artists, attracted a total of 623 attendees.
- Council's artwork collection continues to grow, and its special exhibitions and competitions are often sources of new material. The **15 Artists** exhibition, which has been an annual highlight on the Redcliffe arts calendar since 1997, helped boost the collection further in October 2008 when council purchased seven new works.
- Moreton Bay region's arts and cultural community is expected to gain significant benefits from the construction of community facilities across the region including the Pine Rivers Park amphitheatre at Strathpine, the Seaside Museum at Bribie Island, the new Woodford Community Museum & Arts Centre, a \$25 million library, learning centre and art gallery complex at Caboolture and extensive renovations at the existing Caboolture Historical Village. For further information on these projects please see pages 32 and 33.

Good sports

Planning and developing a range of physical activity, sport and recreational strategies to meet the needs of the community is part of council's effort to provide active and healthy lifestyle opportunities for residents.

The larger projects include:



Redcliffe Tennis Centre – Council received \$1.5 million from the State Government towards its \$3 million planned upgrade of the Redcliffe Tennis Centre. Design work has been completed for plans that include two new tennis courts, the resurfacing of existing courts, a new clubhouse, new lighting and fencing, improved parking and associated landscaping. Construction is expected to begin in the next financial year.



Caboolture Leisure Pool – The \$450,000 Caboolture Leisure Pool opened at the King Street complex in Caboolture in September 2008. The 16-metre by 8-metre heated pool has a depth of 1.2 metres and has resulted in increased participation in learn-to-swim and aqua aerobics classes as well as allowing the facility to operate all year.



Kinsellas Sporting Field, North Lakes – Work commenced on a \$390,000 project to install new playing field light poles that will provide a safe well-lit facility for both school and community use.

James Drysdale Reserve, Bunya – Detailed design for an amenities building was completed and construction is expected to be finished in 2010.

John Oxley Reserve, Murrumba Downs – Work is under way on upgrading lights for the sports fields.

A number of existing sporting and playing fields have benefited from upgrades and improvements that have encouraged increased participation and usage. Planning for further works at other facilities has been carried out in the 15 months to 30 June, 2009.



Donnybrook Community Hall – The hall was reopened in October, 2008, following \$350,000 in repair works and refurbishments that included new air-conditioning and resealing of the floor.

Woodside Sports Field, North Lakes – Additional lighting is being installed for playing fields.



South Pine Sports Complex, Brendale – Netball court surfaces were upgraded and temporary toilets and change rooms were relocated as part of a \$215,000 project, while detailed design work was carried out for a netball clubhouse at the complex. Separately, another stage of a car park at the complex was constructed and further stages are in the design phase.



Caboolture Regional Sports Park, Burpengary – Detailed design commenced on concept plans. Future plans involve the staged construction of sporting fields and associated amenities.

The region's sporting community is also set to benefit from the construction of major community facilities at Samford Parklands and the State Equestrian Centre at Caboolture. For further information on these projects please see page 31 and 32.

On the lookout for leisure

Some of council's larger health and activity programs are:



Older and Bolder – Adopted from the former Pine Rivers Shire Council, the program for the over 50s continues to grow as more activities are offered across the Moreton Bay region. Canoeing, cooking, crafts and coach tours are some of the opportunities offered that provide social interaction, physical activity and mental stimulation for seniors.



Adventure Women – Was extended region wide and provides physical activities for women aged 16 and above in a safe, secure setting. The program will run again between March and May, 2010.



SHAFT – Free and low-cost school holiday activities for teenagers are organised by council and this program is expected to expand next financial year.



Active Kids programs – Attracted about 6,000 participants in 50 schools and 10 parks throughout the region. It promoted sporting skills, fun and games to mothers and babies and primary school children.



Community programs at Morayfield Park Leisure Centre. The council-operated centre offers affordable programs for the community. More than 7,200 participated in general programs and a further 2,430 took part in holiday activities.

Valuing communities and learning

Building communities involves undertaking social plans and strategies to guide the provision of development programs and activities. Promoting our libraries as being engaging centres of learning, working in partnership with the community to build connections and developing other education opportunities are part of this.

Our libraries

Our new council's library service is the third largest in Australia with 12 library branches, four community libraries, a mobile library and a library express cart that serves commuters at Caboolture station.

Through amalgamation, the region's residents have access to a collection of more than 657,000 items. During the reporting period, more than 1.62 million visitors and 3.68 million borrowings were recorded at Moreton Bay Region Libraries.

Libraries have spent \$1.5 million on updating the collection and capital works have improved the facilities at Strathpine, Arana Hills, Woodford, Bribie Island and Deception Bay Libraries during the 15 months to 30 June, 2009.

Libraries are being aligned to use a single Library Management System which will provide customers online access to an easy-to-use library catalogue from the end of August, 2009.

Moreton Bay Region Libraries offer the community much more than books, with a diverse collection including fiction, non-fiction, large print, CDs, audio books, music videos, DVDs, magazines, newspapers, children's and young adult collections and local studies as well as toys and a sport library. Libraries also host a huge range of regular activities, from story times and reading groups, to local history, manga and anime clubs, online games, workshops and youth activities.

Some innovative programs include:

- **The Summer Reading Club** – This first major region-wide library activity organised by the 'one' library team attracted 3,511 participants.
- **Mash it Up!** – Young people between 12 and 25 years are offered the opportunity to engage and develop through film making workshops and multi-media technology. Fifty-six workshops attracted more than 430 participants in 2008/09. The Mash It Up Film Festival, to be held 10 July 2009 at the Redcliffe Cultural Centre, will showcase the top 20 entries.
- **Welcoming Places** – Caboolture and Bribie Island libraries launched Welcoming Places in April and November, 2008, and a third Welcoming Place is to be launched at Deception Bay Library in July, 2009. Welcoming Places are spaces within the libraries that have an Indigenous focus but all are welcome to use the facilities.
- **Author talks** – Local authors as well as celebrities including Matthew Reilly and Jeanette Rowe discussed their works with interested readers.



- An annual **Books, Wine and Cheese night** for the region's reading groups and book clubs.
- **Celebrating the region's cultural diversity.** In March 2009, libraries reached out to more than 650 participants through 16 key events which highlighted a variety of cultures including Aboriginal, African, Pacific Islander, Chinese, Italian, Filipino, Vietnamese, Middle Eastern and Greek.

Try a trade

For the past three years, council's Caboolture depot, which maintains and repairs council's fleet of cars and heavy machinery, has been working with the federally-funded Caboolture Area Schools Industry Links Scheme that helps school students gain work experience before they choose a career path. Between 50 and 100 students from local schools take part in the project each year to get a hands-on appreciation of the mechanical trade. In 2008, the students focused on restoring a 1982 Holden VH Commodore sedan which raised \$1,750 at auction in May 2009. The money was donated to Caboolture Hospital's Paediatric Ward. In 2009, about 50 students will participate in the Try a Trade scheme.

Community service delivery

Part of council's commitment to social and community well-being involves providing high-quality community services that respond to identified needs.

In the 15 months to 30 June 2009, council's community services recorded a number of significant achievements and milestones.

Birralee Child Care Centre – This in-demand facility has an occupancy rating of 99 per cent. The centre received a high quality assessment in all seven quality areas and scored an outstanding accreditation rating from the National Childcare Accreditation Council.

Pine Rivers Family Day Care – Increased carer numbers from 53 to 68, and provides high quality care for over 460 children. It received a high quality accreditation result in all six quality areas.

Community Assisted Transport Service (CATS) – Conducted 19,819 transports and 2,082 hours of social support. CATS won the Pine Rivers Press Business Achievers Award in the category of Community Service and Non-Profit Organisations.

Aged Care Respite Service – The respite service provided 49,588 units of Centre Based Day Respite Care for aged people and some younger people with disabilities who reside in the Pine Rivers area. The centre provided 2,094 units of in-home respite care and 211 hours of allied health/podiatry.

Disability Program – The program provided 34,805 hours of social and/or respite support, either in-home, centre-based, or out in the community to younger people with a disability and their families. Customer evaluations showed an overall satisfaction rate of 94 per cent. The program facilitated and played a leadership role in the inception and development of the Moreton Bay Regional Disability Network.

Pine Rivers Home Assist Secure – The service has taken on 800 new clients and 590 home modifications were completed in the 2008/09 financial year. The service celebrated 10 years of operations in April 2009.

Community Grants – A new Community Grants Program was developed, with applications to be invited from community organisations in August and February next financial year. Funding will be available under the categories of: Community Capacity Building; Community Facilities Development; and Community Events. In addition, funding will be available for individual excellence under the Individual Achievement category.

Community Engagement – Council has drafted a community engagement framework and policy which will provide an effective mechanism for council to engage with the community and to seek their input into the decision making processes.

Community Activities and Programs – A number of community programs and activities were coordinated and facilitated throughout 2008/09. These included: community capacity building workshops; coordination of the 'Free Tai Chi by the Sea' program; Redcliffe Healthy Ageing Expo and the facilitation of five community networks.

Community Profiling – A Community Profile of the region was completed in May 2009. This document provides a demographics snapshot and is an important resource for community organisations to help them tailor their programs and activities.

Redcliffe Neighbourhood Centre Needs Assessment – A detailed assessment was undertaken in consultation with the Redcliffe Community Association to determine the necessary functions of the centre and options for redevelopment.



Making our communities healthier and safer

By working closely with residents and organisations, council is helping to improve the health and safety of communities, through education, provision of services and initiatives across a broad range of operations.

Protecting our pets

Council's Petsmart programs offer information and advice to encourage responsible pet ownership.

During the 15 months to June 2009, about 13,000 school students attended more than 120 dog and cat awareness sessions to learn about pet safety and local laws.

Also during that time, council microchipped 1,600 pets – 1,200 dogs and 400 cats. Most of these microchippings were performed during K9 Clubhouse mornings held at various off-leash dog parks and the Caboolture Family Pet Fair which drew about 8,000 people to Caboolture in March.

As part of a State Government pilot program, council is conducting a series of "Snip and Chip" weeks where cat owners can have their pets desexed and microchipped for \$10. Three hundred cats were "snipped and chipped" during sessions held at Deception Bay in March, 2009, and Wamuran in May, 2009. Further weeks are planned at Kallangur in September and Bribie Island in November.

The new Queensland Animal Management Act will take effect from 1 July, 2009. This act introduces the compulsory registration of cats with councils. Council has decided on a registration fee amnesty for the first year of operation to encourage residents to register their cats. Other changes to the Animal Management Act include compulsory permanent identification for new pets after June 30, and changes to the laws for regulated dogs which include restricted, dangerous and menacing dogs.

Cemeteries expansions

A master plan was designed for the redevelopment of Tallowood Cemetery at Deception Bay and a new lawn burial area was opened. The memorial walk at Samford Cemetery was completed.

Declared plants

Council runs displays at various public events including regional shows and Caboolture's Farm Fantastic, which provide educational material about declared plants and animals in our region. There are plans to develop a scheme so residents can hire spray equipment to help eliminate declared weeds from their properties.

Making food outlets safer

In the 15 months to 30 June, 2009, more than 240 people attended council's free monthly courses for anyone interested in learning about food hygiene. The courses, aimed at food shop employees, tuckshop staff and volunteers at sporting canteens, help residents and businesses comply with the State Government's Food Act that requires all people undertaking or supervising food handling operations to have appropriate skills and knowledge.

Delivering on immunisations

Under an agreement with the Queensland Government, council is delivering a vaccination program to the region's high schools. This includes vaccinations for hepatitis B, cervical cancer, diphtheria and tetanus and is an expansion of council's role in local immunisation. The high school vaccination program visited 32 schools and vaccinated about 8,400 children.

Meanwhile council's community clinics offer free flu and pneumovax vaccines to residents over 65. During the 15 months, council reviewed its immunisation services and assessed community needs. As a result, there are plans to introduce a baby clinic to Redcliffe in the next financial year.



Cleaning up our communities

Changes to the Environmental Protection Act now allow authorised council officers to issue fines to the owners of registered vehicles for illegally dumping waste. Single on-the-spot fines have increased to \$200 for general littering, \$300 for littering from a vehicle and \$400 for dangerous littering.

Managing mozzies

In the year to June 2009, council treated 54,000 hectares of low-lying coastal areas to reduce mosquito numbers, while continuing awareness campaigns encouraging residents to reduce mosquito breeding areas by eliminating stagnant water around their homes. The storms in November and heavy rain between February and May proved an extra challenge for council officers working to minimise mosquito outbreaks.

Council established a native fish breeding program in conjunction with the Pine Rivers Fish Management Association. More than 2,000 Firetail Gudgeons and Crimson Spotted Rainbowfish, which feed on mosquito larvae, were released into dams at Murrumba Downs and Samford.

Council is also working with Brisbane City Council to control midges.

Safer suburbs

Council was successful in obtaining \$130,000 funding for the financial year under the Federal Government Safer Suburbs program for Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) and lighting projects. Council is investigating the feasibility of installing CCTV and public safety lighting in identified hotspots and will decide how to use available funding to produce the best results. The Safer Suburbs project, which will work in close partnership with the Queensland Police Service, is aimed at addressing crime and safety issues in foreshores, parks, licensed areas, shopping and business precincts.

A focus on road safety

Council has been instrumental in developing a Road Safety Partnership Project that has gained national and international recognition. Aimed at reducing road trauma, the partnership involves council, the Roads Alliance, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Police Service and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia – Queensland.

The partnership coordinates initiatives and resources to achieve better road safety through improved road user behaviour and road engineering.

The Roads Alliance plans to use the Road Safety Partnership Project as a template for initiatives with other Queensland councils. The partnership won the local government category at the Queensland Road Safety Awards in October 2008 and gained global recognition in June 2009 at the INGENIUM International Conference for public sector engineers.

A draft five-year Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan are now being developed to prioritise potential initiatives to make local roads even safer.



Managing disasters

As part of council's commitment to providing safe and harmonious communities it is vital to have disaster management plans in place and response teams ready.

Major storms on 16 and 21 November, 2008, an oil spill in Moreton Bay on 11 March, 2009, and floods in March and May 2009 put council's response to emergencies and natural disasters to the test.

Council received more than 3,200 formal requests for help after a severe tropical storm on 16 November affected areas including Narangba, Arana Hills, Burpengary, Albany Creek, Bunya, Ferny Hills, Everton Hills and Deception Bay. The storm also damaged 35 council playgrounds. The cost of rectifying damage in parks and streets was \$4.3 million, \$3.1 million of which the Queensland Government provided. Eighty staff were assigned to clean up duties for six weeks after the storm.

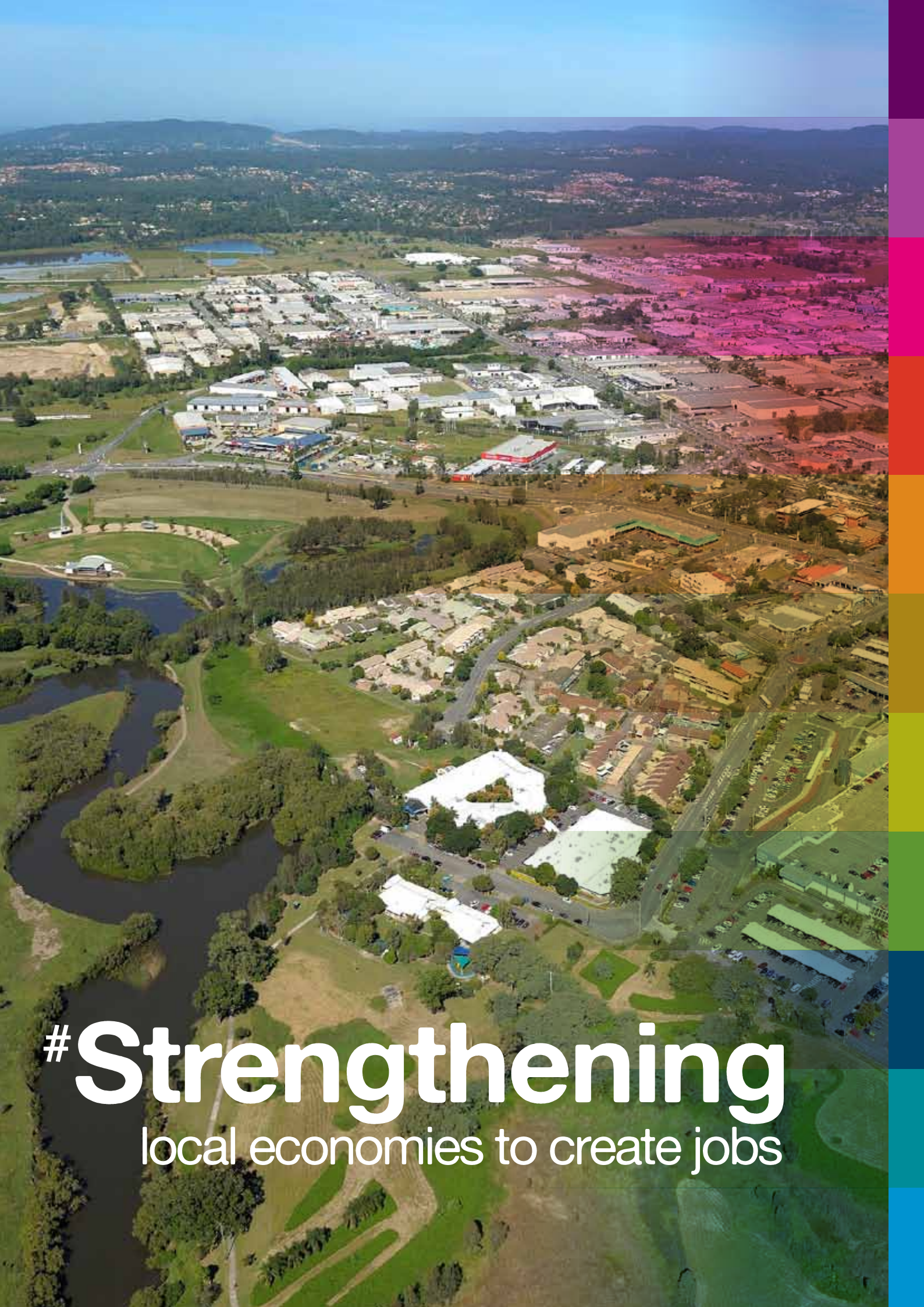
The same week, on 21 November, Scarborough was hit by a severe storm that caused more local damage. Following the storm, the much-loved Cottonwood grove next to the playground at Scarborough Beach had to be fenced off for public safety. In the next financial year, council is planning specific works, based on an arborist's recommendations to protect as many of the trees as possible.

An oil spill from the Pacific Adventure container ship in March attracted international attention. Council was part of a coordinated response team involving various State Government agencies. Council staff removed about 2,200 cubic metres of contaminated sand and marine vegetation from the northern beaches of Bribie Island at a cost to date to council of \$372,439. Reimbursement for this cost was still to be determined at the end of the reporting period.

Floodwaters in March and May caused significant damage to infrastructure in 25 parks throughout the region. Council staff were also called on to remove more than 100 cubic metres of sediment from Caboolture's Apex Park and more than 4,000 cubic metres of water hyacinth from parks next to the Pine River and Redcliffe beaches after it was flushed downstream during the floods.

The cost of repairing the parks was about \$641,000.

Our Region's Development



#Strengthening
local economies to create jobs



Our Region's Development

Moreton Bay Regional Council has one of the fastest growing populations in South-East Queensland with the number of residents predicted to rise from an estimated 356,700 at June 2008 to more than 500,000 by 2026.

Part of council's commitment to residents is ensuring the right infrastructure is in place and maintained. Council is also looking to foster opportunities that promote business and investment growth to effectively strengthen local economies and create job opportunities.

Building our communities

By providing high quality facilities for our growing communities, council is helping to create a desirable place in which to work and live.

While this outcome satisfies council's goal to foster pride in our region, such facilities also meet another council goal to create an economically viable place for business and leisure.

New jetty rejuvenates Woody Point

The new Woody Point Jetty, at the corner of Oxley Avenue and Woodcliffe Crescent, Woody Point, was completed in early 2009. The \$9.5 million project, co-funded by council and the Queensland Government's Q150 Legacy Infrastructure Program, is the third jetty to be built on the site since 1882.

The old jetty was demolished in October 2007 and the first concrete piles for the new structure were in place by April, 2008. The 240-metre long structure was made with 80-year-old recycled timber from the old Mackay wharf. It contains more than 10,500 lineal metres of decking timber, more than 60,000 stainless steel screws and 4,500 stainless steel bolts.

Designed to meet the recreational needs of residents and visitors, the jetty includes shelters, seating areas, drinking water bubblers, lighting and fish cleaning tables.

The foreshore was landscaped and now features public art, a promenade pathway, flying fox, shelters and improved public amenities.

The jetty was ready for official opening celebrations on 17 January, 2009, but bad weather delayed the event and instead Queensland Premier Anna Bligh performed the opening on 12 June, 2009.

Parklands transformation takes shape

The first stage of the massive 140-hectare Samford Parklands redevelopment is taking shape. The reserve, on both sides of Mount Samson Road, is being transformed into a multi-use park with recreational areas, sporting fields, hard courts, paths and public amenities.

Construction of tennis and netball courts and internal roads began in September, 2008. The \$6.2 million works are expected to be open for use from February 2010. Work is expected to begin on a \$1 million sports pavilion in October, 2009. Design work for stage two, that features a soccer precinct on the eastern side of Mount Samson Road, will be undertaken in the 2009/2010 financial year, with staged construction to follow.



Construction begins on State Equestrian Centre

The construction of a world class equestrian centre at Beerburum Road, Caboolture has begun, with work on the roof of the covered arena expected to be completed by end of September 2009.

A draft master plan for the equestrian centre was completed in August 2008 and by October council had engaged PDT Architects to design a 3,200 square metre indoor arena with seating for 1,500 people, amenities, roadworks and a car park.

The project, which had already been promised \$1.76 million in State Government funding received two boosts when the federal government pledged \$1.475 million under the \$250 million Community Infrastructure Program announced in November and \$3.8 million in April under its Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program. The extra funding allowed council to increase the seating capacity of the arena to 4,000. Construction of the arena is expected to continue through 2010.

The state equestrian centre is to be developed in stages over 10 years, with the covered arena being the focal point of the first stage of construction.



Fitness centre gets makeover

A \$3 million makeover of the Albany Creek Leisure Centre, on the corner of Old Northern Road and Explorer Drive at Albany Creek, is nearing completion. Expected to be open for business in September 2009, the new-look centre includes a new 1,000-square-metre health club featuring a cardio theatre, three group fitness rooms, change rooms, a childcare space and offices. Facilities at the complex also include a 50-metre heated pool, indoor hydrotherapy/learn-to-swim pool and a waterslide.

The council-owned facility is managed by Belgravia Leisure, which jointly funded the redevelopment.



Amphitheatre increases Pine Rivers Park potential

Events and concerts at Pine Rivers Park in Strathpine are now taking full advantage of the new amphitheatre constructed in 2008. The 10,000-seat amphitheatre, which was built as part of the \$4.8 million redevelopment of Pine Rivers Park, now has almost twice the capacity of the previous outdoor facility and is able to host a much wider range of activities and events.

The Bryce Amphitheatre soundshell features an iconic tower structure that includes a control room and first aid facilities and there is access to onsite power, water and a lighting platform. The amphitheatre was constructed with the assistance of \$2.05 million in State Government funding.

As part of the park's redevelopment, 11 fig trees were removed from the old amphitheatre mound and relocated in a section of the park where they could provide additional shade. The plants have established well and are flourishing.

The new amphitheatre's landscaping has included the planting of 17 five-metre tall Kauri Pines and 25 six-metre tall Hills Figs.



Full steam ahead for seaside museum

In June 2009, council awarded ICD (Group) Pty Ltd the \$2.7 million contract to build the Bribie Island Seaside Museum. Early construction work on the Q150 project commenced shortly after on the Bongaree foreshore. The State Government has provided \$1 million towards the museum. Weather permitting, construction should be finished around Christmas 2009. The museum will showcase the Island's seaside culture once it is fitted with displays in early 2010.



Remaking history

In March 2009, council began renovations at the Caboolture Historical Village as part of a Q150 project that had received \$1 million in State Government funding. The first stage of improvements includes remodelling the visitors' reception centre and extending the village hotel's covered verandah area. The renovations are part of bigger plans to be carried out over several years to create new experiences for historical village visitors.



Woodford Arts Space

A new arts space built under the Woodford Community Hall has delivered a thriving cultural precinct to the township. Used by members of the Woodford Historical Society and Woodford Community Arts Group, the space was officially opened in May. More than 380 tonnes of general rubble were removed from under the hall to create the 400 square metres of public space.



Beachside beautification

The third stage of beautification works for the bayside township of Beachmere is nearing completion. Works include upgrading Clayton Park and the activity centre park. More than 8,000 plants have been used in extensive landscaping that has also involved constructing pedestrian pathways, lighting installation, an upgrade to the skate park, a multi-goal play area and an additional picnic shelter.

Meanwhile, in August 2008, council officially launched the foreshore park lookout area at Bribie Island's surfside town Woorim. The project involved stabilising an 85-metre stretch of sand dune by reshaping and replanting it. The park, behind the amenities block, provides easier access to views of the beach, a fenced playground, picnic and barbecue facilities.

Other work in Woorim has involved the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of First Avenue, Arcadia Avenue and Bracken Street. Stormwater drainage was upgraded, power supply was placed underground, and landscaping was carried out. Moreton Bay Regional Council has announced further works at Beachmere and Woorim, as part of the long-term beautification projects for both. In Woorim, work is to begin on Jacana Avenue streetscaping next financial year.

Looking after what we've got

Inspecting our assets to ensure they remain serviceable throughout their lifecycle, ensures that the infrastructure investments council makes yield the greatest possible benefit for residents. Timely maintenance programs can ensure years of service.

- It's out of sight, but not out of mind. Council's extensive underground stormwater network involves nearly 2,000 kilometres of pipes. The new council has checked the condition of pipes thought to be in poorer condition due to age and corrosion. Council engaged Wide Bay Water to carry out surveys of 25 kilometres of pipes in the tidal areas of Deception Bay, Redcliffe and Bribie Island at a cost of \$150,000. The results will be used to prioritise renewal work.
- Council is also assessing its bus shelters to see what needs to be done to ensure they meet Discrimination and Disability Act requirements. Using data collected by Translink in 2007 as a starting point, council then inspected shelters where information was inconclusive. It is now working towards meeting a 2012 target to upgrade shelters that currently do not meet requirements.
- From playground equipment and pathways to barbecues and bollards, Moreton Bay region parks contain a wealth of infrastructure. Council has begun recording these items so they can be part of the new region-wide asset management system. At 30 June, 2009, 22,853 parks items had been recorded and more will be added over the following six months. Once all park assets are recorded, the database will be used to effectively manage council's future park maintenance and equipment replacement programs.



DRIVING ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Moreton Bay region contains more than 3,400 kilometres of sealed and unsealed road, with the vast majority of this network owned by council. Council monitors the network to ensure timely maintenance of existing roads while identifying and initiating larger road projects to service the needs of our growing population.

Making roads safer

Council's largest road project, the \$14.8 million redevelopment of the intersection of **Old North Road**, **Youngs Crossing Road** and **Samsonvale Road** at Warner, is due for completion in August 2009. Aimed at improving safety and peak-hour traffic flow at the heavily-used intersection, the upgrade has involved replacing the roundabout with traffic lights. Two lanes of traffic in each direction feed into the intersection and right and left-hand turning lanes are part of the project. The redevelopment project received \$2 million from the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery program, \$400,000 from the State Government's Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme and \$500,000 from Genesis Christian College, which is on Youngs Crossing Road just north of the intersection. Pedestrian signals and a protected pathway have been installed to improve safety for Genesis students.

Council has also upgraded **Old Gympie Road** at Burpengary between Boundary Road and Frawley Avenue to ensure it meets current standards. The \$3.1 million project due for completion in July 2009, involves building a roundabout at McPhail Road, widening sealed shoulders to 1.5 metres and work to improve visibility and cater for cyclists. The work has also involved landscaping as well as relocating and upgrading streetlights, gas, telecommunications, water, and electricity services.

Work was carried out between Platinum Road and Semple Lane at Caboolture in an ongoing project to upgrade Pumicestone Road to current standards. The nine-month \$1.4 million project was completed in April 2009. Visibility and alignment have been improved and the road now accommodates cyclists. The work will connect to a \$1.5 million roundabout being constructed at Platinum Road in 2009.

Bells Lane at Bellmere, between Bellmere Road and South Wararba Creek has been upgraded to current standards for \$1.4 million. The work has improved visibility, traffic capacity, safety for cyclists and drainage.

Council spent \$1.1 million on continued improvements to Lindsay Road at Morayfield which provide protected turning bays, improved drainage and 1.5 metre road shoulders between Anderson Road and Clark Road, at Robbs Road and at Blewers Road.

Work to make Neurum Road, west of Woodford, two lanes continues. Between September and January 2009, council extended construction to Stanton Road for \$800,000.

At Bellara, on Bribie Island, council completed the first stage of a drainage project which will lessen the likelihood of flooding for residents. The \$1.1 million project near Hovea Street was completed in March 2009 and involved designing and constructing 70 metres of large box culverts.



Planning for the future

Council is involved in a host of planning projects that will help shape the way the region develops. Through strategic planning, council can manage development in a way that helps preserve the lifestyle of residents. This involves making sure adequate infrastructure to support new development is available and that new growth brings with it opportunities to expand and strengthen our economy.

During council's first 15 months, major planning projects included:

The Local Growth Management Strategy – Council consolidated the work of the former councils to present a submission to the State Government in July 2008.

Caboolture CBD Urban Design Framework – The framework describes an overarching vision for the Caboolture Central Business District. The completed framework will be used to assist in preparing a master plan for the Caboolture-Morayfield Principal Activity Centre.

Caboolture – Morayfield Principal Regional Activity Centre Master Plan – Council secured \$150,000 funding from the State's Department of Infrastructure & Planning's Transit Oriented Development program towards the master planning process commencing in 2009/10. The State Government's designation of Caboolture-Morayfield as a Principal Activity Centre requires the development of a master plan to help guide land use, infrastructure, transportation and the quality of design for buildings in the area.

Strathpine Major Regional Master Plan – Council secured a \$200,000 funding commitment for 2009/10 and 2010/11 from the Commonwealth's Building Better Regions Program. Strathpine has been designated Major Regional Activity Centre status and the master plan will assist council to address the need to have a framework to manage future growth and development. The master plan will provide a unified vision and plan for the integrated and sustainable development of a cohesive, lively and workable centre.

Dakabin Station Relocation Study – Council was involved in a joint feasibility project with Translink and Queensland Transport which was completed in December 2008. The study examined the feasibility of relocating the station to the northern side of Alma Road to improve the integration of transportation and land use.

Regional Collaboration and Coordination

In collaboration with other local governments, council contributed to a number of projects and initiatives including:

- Contributing to the determination of a set of principles for the review of the Urban Footprint that were utilised by the State Government during its review of the SEQ Regional Plan.
- Providing key input into the working group charged with determining how to undertake plan making and operate development assessment processes following the creation of new water entities.
- Providing input into the review of the draft SEQ Natural Resources Management Plan including the development of mechanisms for regional environmental offsets.
- Contributing to the Council of Mayors (SEQ) whole of SEQ submission to the review of the SEQ Infrastructure Plan & Program (SEQIPP).
- Working with the alliance formed to construct the northern pipeline interconnector that runs through the region and forms part of the South-East Queensland water grid.



Major projects in the pipeline

Council has announced a commitment to three major projects that will boost local economies in Brendale, Caboolture and Redcliffe as well as our broader region.

Two commercial projects are planned for Brendale – a 5,000 square metre warehouse and a new depot for the region’s water services.

Work has already begun on a master plan for Caboolture’s Town Square, which is aimed at rejuvenating the central square area. Building on those plans, is council’s commitment to create a \$25 million library, learning centre and art gallery in Town Square.

In Redcliffe, there are plans for a major \$20 million streetscaping project. Key businesses, property owners and residents are being surveyed to provide feedback on what is most needed along the foreshore near the Redcliffe Jetty.

Council has set up special sections on its website dedicated to these projects to keep residents informed about their progress.

Regional Floodplain Database

A three-year \$2.37 million project is creating a Regional Floodplain Database that will provide up-to-date reliable information on flood risks in the new council area.

The project’s targeted area covers 1,760 square kilometres in what is a key designated population growth corridor for South-East Queensland. The project will use state-of-the-art Geographic Information Systems to store and manage large amounts of complex data and information produced.

The project is jointly funded by Council, Emergency Management Queensland and Emergency Management Australia under the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program. During 2008/09, council provided funding in the amount of \$152,400 to progress preliminary stages of the project.

Examining broadband potential

Before the federal government’s announcement in April 2009 of plans for a new super fast National Broadband Network, council was already working to make sure broadband connection was an integral part of future development in Moreton Bay region.

As part of a federally funded initiative, council is working on drafting guidelines for deploying broadband infrastructure in new industrial, residential and commercial estates. It has completed surveys of residents and businesses to establish broadband needs and in the next financial year it will be identifying areas within the region that are already serviced by fibre optic cable.

See our statistics

Council has set up a community profile that uses information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census counts to inform community groups, investors, business, students and the general public about our region. The site provides population estimates, workforce figures, residential development statistics and other data.



Boosting business

One of council's key aims is to stimulate jobs growth through a diverse and vibrant economy and provide opportunities for business and investment. During the recent economic slowdown, it becomes all the more important to promote the region to potential investors or risk missing enormous opportunities to attract the best commercial and industrial investments. By focusing on tourism initiatives separately, council is able to work on encouraging an industry that introduces more visitors to the region which in turn creates an economically viable place for business and leisure.

In May 2009, council adopted an economic development operational plan, which outlines four major areas of activity – examining market conditions, identifying opportunities, working to attract new investment and supporting the business community where possible over the next three to five years.

Providing support, encouragement and educational opportunities to the business community involved initiatives including:

- A Business Expo at North Lakes Community Centre on 18 June 2008 that attracted over 200 people. The expo particularly targeted people interested in starting up their own business,
- Hosting a series of 16 workshops at various locations that attracted 259 participants. Topics included e-marketing, tax essentials, starting up a home-based business, and managing for safety.
- Five Better Business Events which attracted a total of 646 attendees. Guest speakers included renowned scientist Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, Contiki tours founder John Anderson and financial commentator David Koch.
- Six business forums attracted 540 attendees. The forums provided business people the opportunity to network, learn from experts, speak to councillors and grow their business

Vying for visitors

Council has adopted a tourism destination management plan designed to provide strategic direction for encouraging growth in the tourism sector for the next three years. The plan contains a number of strategies to build business capacity, unite industry and increase awareness of the region's visitor experiences.

A series of workshops will be held in the next financial year to discuss how the tourism industry can work with council to benefit from a more integrated approach to tourism in the region.

Council's five visitor information centres, at Bellara on Bribie Island, opposite the Redcliffe Jetty at Redcliffe, Gympie Road, Strathpine, the Bruce Highway at Burpengary and Pelican Park at Clontarf, have been integrated so that they work together to promote the entire region.

Council produced 50,000 copies of an Attractions Map and Guide for distribution between October 2008 and June 2009 that gave visitors an overview of what could be seen and done during their stay in Moreton Bay region.

Building our sister cities status

The new council inherited sister city relationships formed by Redcliffe City Council with Sanyo-Onoda in Japan in 1992 and the Queensland town of Winton in 1995. Council is planning to renew agreements with those cities next financial year and extend the relationships to include the whole of Moreton Bay region.

The following exchanges occurred in 2008:

30 July - 11 August – Six students and one adult chaperone from Sanyo-Onoda visited Moreton Bay Regional Council. These visitors were home hosted by students of Redcliffe High School.

2 - 6 August – The Mayor of Sanyo-Onoda and a delegation of six councillors and businessmen visited Moreton Bay Regional Council.

28 September - 3 October – 14 students and four adult chaperones from Winton visited Moreton Bay region. These visitors were home hosted by Redcliffe residents, mostly connected with Scarborough State School.

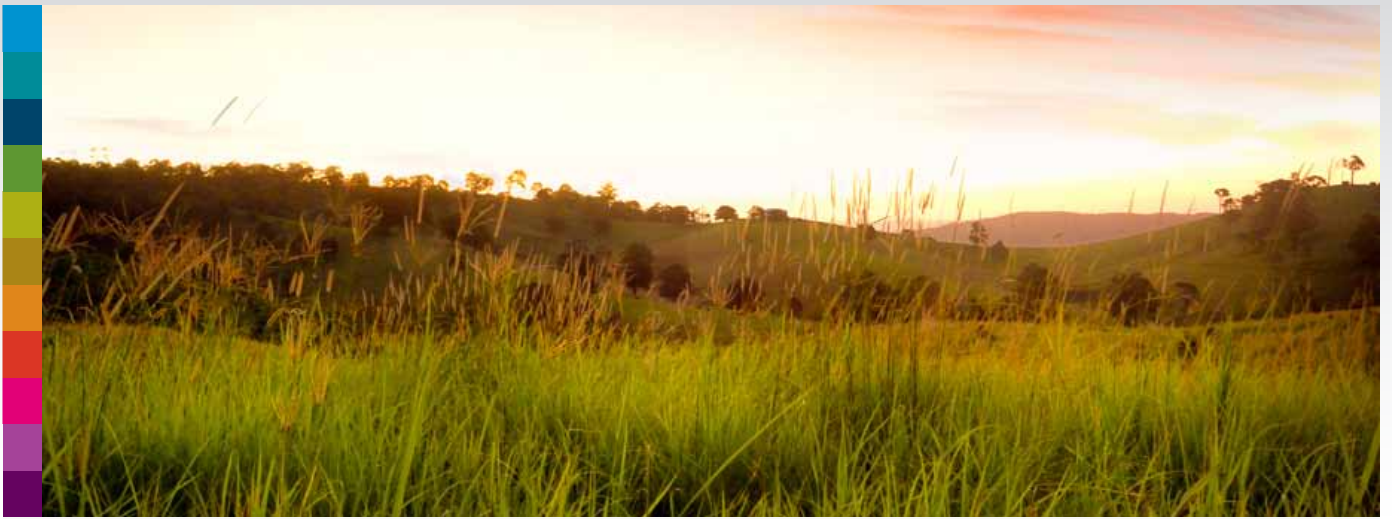




Our Environment

A photograph of a seal swimming in clear, turquoise water. The seal is dark brown and is moving from the bottom left towards the center right. The water is very clear, showing ripples and some underwater details. The sky is a bright blue with a few wispy clouds near the horizon. The overall scene is bright and clear.

#Balancing
environmental
and **population**
needs



Our Environment

There are many challenges facing local governments when protecting the environment and meeting the needs of growing populations.

In community surveys used to help formulate council's first corporate plan, our residents strongly identified with the need to focus on creating sustainable places in which to live. As a result, ways to enhance sustainability have become key drivers of council's decision-making process.

Addressing climate change

Council was one of the first in Queensland to prepare a report on the impacts of climate change. The report, Scoping Climate Change Risk for Moreton Bay Regional Council, is now available to the public on council's website. This high-level analysis brings a consolidated view of the likely climate change impacts, and is intended to lead to more detailed assessments to assist council when making decisions on this issue.

Council also participated in the preparation of the State Government's draft SEQ Climate Change Strategy.

The amalgamated council has continued to be part of the Regional Energy Efficiency Street Lighting study to assess the options for reduced energy consumption for residential streetlights. This is a three-year project due for completion at the end of 2010.

At the organisational level, council facilities continue to be upgraded with energy efficient lighting, appliances and improved metering to monitor and manage energy use, leading to a reduction in emissions and energy costs. As an example, work on the Strathpine Civic Centre energy efficiency upgrades included installation of energy efficient lights, lighting circuits linked to movement sensors, improved efficiency of heating, ventilating and air conditioning and increased window shading. The estimated greenhouse gas savings of these upgrades is approximately 20 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions a year with a financial saving of \$20,000 per year. The upgrades are expected to pay for themselves in four and a half years.

Other activities include:

- **Sustainable Home Caboolture** – a partnership involving the State Government, a developer, a builder and Moreton Bay Regional Council. This open house at Caboolture East, which operated until October 2008, provided a practical demonstration of sustainable home features to the community and industry.
- **Solar array installation** – Council has installed solar panels at a number of its facilities and now has a grid-connected solar capacity of 31 kilowatts. This reduces carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 56.5 tonnes a year.
- **Environment Centre sustainability improvements** – CREEC Environmental Centre at Burpengary, Kumbartcho Sanctuary at Eatons Hill and Osprey House at Griffin, have undergone sustainability auditing and energy efficiency upgrades. These works will result in more efficient facility operation, reduced greenhouse emissions and will also serve as an example of sustainable living to residents.
- Council has been involved in the **Bribie Island Climate Adaptation program** conducted by SEQ Catchments and Sunshine Coast University.



Protecting biodiversity and ecosystems

Charlie Moorhead Nature Refuge Designation

In April 2009, the new council entered into its first Nature Refuge Conservation Agreement with the Minister of Sustainability and Climate Change.

The nature refuge status allows for perpetual protection and recognition at State level of the Charlie Moorhead Nature Refuge at 650 Campbells Pocket Road, Campbells Pocket. The property contains significant natural values, including 25 hectares of remnant vegetation providing habitat for rare and threatened animals and plants. Importantly, 35 critically endangered Bahrs Scrub Croton (*Croton mamillatus*) shrubs exist on the property – a species discovered a few years ago with only about 100 plants known to exist in the world.

Dohles Rocks

Council purchased 24.5 hectares at Dohles Rocks Road, Griffin, with \$1.5 million from its environmental levy. The land, which will become the new Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve, is next to Osprey House Environmental Centre and provides an important wildlife corridor between neighbouring natural areas and the Pine River. The area, although previously cleared, contains nine hectares of endangered Swamp She-oak Forest ecosystem including Swamp Water Fern, with rhizomes once used as a food source by Aboriginal people in Moreton Bay. The conservation value of the area will increase significantly as the land regenerates. Council will monitor and measure the expansion of this critical coastal habitat.

Godwin Beach Environmental Reserve

Council has begun improvements at Godwin Beach Environmental Reserve. The 26-hectare reserve of coastal lowlands bordering Moreton Bay Marine Park is recognised as one of the most significant archaeological sites in South-East Queensland and is home to more than 200 plant species and a diverse range of birds and native animals.

Council, in consultation with representatives of the Gubbi Gubbi people, formulated a land management plan and cultural heritage management plan for long-term

improvements and maintenance of the reserve. Initial work in 2008/09 involved adding fencing, removing weeds, planting indigenous species and carrying out a fauna survey. In November 2008, the reserve's Cultural Heritage Management Plan received meritorious recognition at the Planning Institute Australia (Qld division) Awards for Planning Excellence.

Other locations

Council continues to maintain and enhance the 90 hectares of properties previously purchased under the environmental levy. For example, the building at the Greenwoods site, 240 Church Road, Eatons Hill, is being refurbished to become an environmental conference centre in partnership with Bunya Community Environmental Association.

Managing coastal and catchment areas

To achieve a sustainable environment, council has a commitment to responsible management of the region's water resources and protection of natural ecosystems. During the reporting period, council was involved in a number of projects and initiatives that furthered this commitment.

- Mapping of shorebird habitats was expanded to include the entire region. Shorebirds are vulnerable to a number of threats throughout their migratory ranges, including inadequate protection of shorebird roosting and feeding sites, plus pollution. This mapping project will aid in the protection of internationally significant shorebird habitat found within the region. In 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.
- Council undertook a significant review of the Sandstone Point Foreshore Parkland Land Management Plan. The revised land management plan, when completed, will ensure compliance with relevant legislative requirements and protection of ecological, physical and cultural values of the land while still allowing for lawful general maintenance.



- Sediment and nutrients pollute our waterways, often flushing into our rivers after heavy rains. Council has spent \$284,000 on event monitoring using five existing automatic sampling stations along the Pine River, and Freshwater and Four Mile Creeks and two new ones installed on the Caboolture River and Wararba Creek. The information gained from these stations will help council work on ways to reduce the pollutants in the region's waterways.
- Council has also expanded its stream health monitoring program across the region.
- Environmental officers are measuring water quality in 150 freshwater and estuarine sites to monitor water quality and to identify any problems and further action needed. Council is restoring riverbank vegetation and tightening sediment controls on development to help protect these essential resources.
- Council completed mapping of Acid Sulfate Soils at Bribie Island, Beachmere, Toorbul, Meldale and Donnybrook. The mapping identified existing and potential acid sulfate soils which will aid in the planning and management of developments and infrastructure in these areas.

Making our vehicles greener

To reduce pollution in our environment, council has implemented several initiatives across its plant and fleet operations making them more fuel efficient.

When renewing the fleet, there is an emphasis on replacing six-cylinder utilities with vehicles that have dual fuel systems that allow them to run on both LPG and unleaded fuels.

Four-cylinder vehicles are preferred over larger ones and now make up 60 per cent of council's passenger and utility fleet. E10 is used as council's preferred unleaded petrol.

Meanwhile, biodiesel is now servicing all equipment at landfill sites across the region. The cleaner fuel gives off less carbon than traditional fuels.

Conserving koalas

Council endorsed the commencement of the Moreton Bay Koala Conservation Partnership Project in March 2009. The scope of the project extends to a range of planning, works and ongoing maintenance tasks. Council is working with representatives of relevant government agencies and key community groups to align initiatives to achieve the best long-term results for koala conservation. The first phase of the project is expected to extend across three years.

Meanwhile, in July 2008, council endorsed a koala habitat map produced for the region by external consultants in partnership with a range of stakeholders including council. The map was produced through a joint initiative of the three former councils and the Environmental Protection Agency (now known as the Department of Environmental Resource Management). The mapping updates previous versions and reflects a more localised understanding of koala populations and habitat areas within the region. Ahead, the mapping is to be incorporated into council's planning schemes.

Improving our waste record

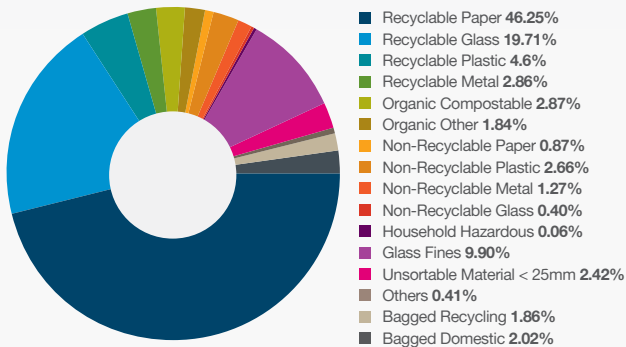
A key component of improving sustainability is to reduce the amount of unnecessary waste produced. This is one area where residents can make a significant difference.

A 2008 waste audit showed the average Moreton Bay region household generates about 19 kilograms of waste a week, of which 64 per cent goes in general bins and 36 per cent is placed in recycling bins.

Council's audit shows that almost a quarter of the waste in general bins could have been recycled. Organic material such as food scraps, newspapers and cardboard make up the bulk of the material that could have otherwise been recycled.



What we are putting in our recycling bins



Reducing waste at work

Council, in partnership with Amcor, has instigated a Recycle @ Work program which resulted in more than 13 tonnes of recyclable waste diverted from landfill to recycling between April 2008 and June 2009.

Narangba Industrial Estate program

Council is partnering with the Department of Environmental Resource Management to facilitate the EcoBiz program for a number of businesses located at Narangba Industrial Estate. The program helps businesses find ways of reducing the amount of electricity, water and waste they use and produce. Businesses identify their current levels in each area and then work towards making improvements. An action plan is put in place and an audit, scheduled for January 2010 will measure success.

Recycling features at council events

Council has been working in partnership with the Department of Environmental Resource Management to ensure recycling facilities are now available at major council events such as Redcliffe's First Settlement Festival, Caboolture's Urban Country Music Festival, The Pine Rivers Aussie Arvo, Bribie Island's Aussie Beach Party and Redcliffe's Festival of Sails.

Community responds to clean up call

Strong community support of council's continued commitment to Clean Up Australia Day was demonstrated in March, 2009, with 103 cleanup sites registered in the region – an increase of 67 per cent on 2008's site numbers. More than 6,500 volunteers took part and helped collect more than 200 cubic metres of general litter and nearly 27 cubic metres of recyclable rubbish.

Educating future generations

Council works closely with schools in the Moreton Bay region to encourage active participation in looking after our environment.

Between January and June 2009, council reached more than 3,130 students during 112 lessons on catchment care and more than 1,170 students who took part in 42 lessons on energy conservation.

During 2008/09 more than 2,790 students from 93 classes in 19 Moreton Bay region schools took part in council's waste education program aimed at teaching waste minimisation strategies such as recycling, composting, reduction of litter and the reduction of packaging waste. Council's school education program is now available to the 92 primary and high schools across the region and aims to give the next generation practical advice on how to reduce waste and the resulting benefits.

Council's E-Team, which conducts environmental education in schools, was recognised in the 2008 United Nations Australia World Environment Day Awards as a nominee for the Local Government – Best Specific Environmental Initiative category.

Our Water

#Moreton Bay Water
provides water services to
132,000 properties





Our Water

Council amalgamations and the State Government's water reforms have had a substantial impact on the operations of Moreton Bay Water – the business arm of council's water and sewage treatment operations.

Under the South East Queensland Water (Restructuring) Act 2007 the Queensland Government adopted changes to South-East Queensland's water supply arrangements that have significantly changed the role local governments have traditionally played. While SEQwater now manages dams, weirs and treatment plants, council is responsible for delivering water to customers and collecting, transporting and treating sewage. As part of ongoing reforms, the commercial water businesses of Moreton Bay Regional Council and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council will be amalgamated to form one of three new South-East Queensland water distribution companies by 1 July, 2010. This new business will own the region's water distribution, sewage treatment and sewerage infrastructure and sell water and sewerage services to customers.

Under the objectives of its corporate plan, council through its water business is committed to providing high public health standards to its communities and managing the region's valuable water resources. This management includes improving and maintaining the quality of our water resources, promoting water conservation awareness, fostering water reuse and recycling initiatives, ensuring safe drinking water supply and continuing to implement integrated water management solutions. Council is continuing to implement many of these strategies and is delivering on infrastructure that will help achieve those objectives.

Meeting needs

As the region's population grows, so does the demand for water. Moreton Bay Water provides water services to 132,000 properties and sewerage services to 114,000. It is responsible for 2,901 kilometres of water mains, 27 water pumping stations and 35 water reservoirs. It also operates 2,643 kilometres of sewerage mains with 390 sewerage pumping stations that feed into eight wastewater treatment plants and two advanced water treatment plants.

Moreton Bay Water has established vital water infrastructure and is continually developing strategies to conserve water while providing a cost-effective service to residents and ratepayers.

Moreton Bay Water delivered projects totalling \$184 million through a range of strategies including alliances, traditional construction contracts, partnering arrangements with design consultant MWH, and construction performed by staff. Council is continuing to look at other innovative ways to deliver projects in the future.



Murrumba projects

The \$47 million Murrumba Downs Advanced Water Treatment Plant was completed a fortnight ahead of time and under budget in September 2008. Built through an alliance that involved Moreton Bay Regional Council, the John Holland Group and Montgomery Watson Harza (MWH), the plant was officially inaugurated on 3 November, 2008, by Mayor Allan Sutherland and Member for Murrumba Dean Wells. The advanced water treatment plant produces four megalitres a day of purified recycled water, which is supplied for local industrial use.

At 30 June 2009, work to upgrade the Murrumba Downs Wastewater Treatment Plant was about 60 per cent completed. The \$152 million project is on target for completion by July 2010. The project so far has involved the pouring of more than 9,000 cubic metres of concrete and 1,500 tonnes of reinforcing steel.

Burpengary East

Work has begun on a \$46 million upgrade to increase the capacity of the Burpengary East Sewerage Treatment Plant. The project is due for completion in January 2011. Part of the works will involve installing an Australian-made membrane system in one of the bioreactors. The system will produce three million litres of Class A+ quality recycled water a day which will be available for industrial reuse.

Other sewerage infrastructure upgrades

Design work for the upgrade of Caboolture South and Woodford sewerage treatment works was completed in May 2009. Construction at Caboolture South is expected to start in February 2010. Design work for an upgrade of the Brendale plant will start in early 2010 with construction expected to begin in the second half of 2010. The upgrades will increase the capacity of the plants and improve the quality of discharges, which in turn will help improve the quality of water in catchment areas.

New water and sewerage transportation infrastructure was also installed to serve the growing populations of Kallangur and Dakabin. The \$25 million project commenced in June 2008 and was due for completion in July 2009.

Sewerage schemes for Godwin Beach and Donnybrook connecting 440 properties are expected to reduce the environmental impact of both townships on Pumicestone Passage. The Godwin Beach scheme was completed by December 2008 and the Donnybrook scheme will be nearing completion next financial year. The sewerage provision at Godwin Beach and Donnybrook uses a pressure system where each property is fitted with a small grinder pump which is owned and maintained by council.

Across the region 145 network projects ranging from \$100,000 to \$6 million, are being designed or constructed. The projects will assist council in maintaining existing water supply and sewerage standards and also continue to meet development needs to cater to the region's growing population.

Bribie borefields

On October 1, 2008, Moreton Bay Water handed over the ownership and management of the Banksia Beach Water Treatment Plant and associated borefields to the State Government. The handover was carried out after council had performed rigorous testing and reviews of the finished plant that was built as a Regional Drought Strategy mandated project in just over a year. A maximum of 4.3 megalitres a day is drawn from the borefields in the pine forest north of the treatment plant, sourced from Bribie's deep sand aquifer about 20 metres below the surface. There are 18 bores and another 30 around the island that are being used to monitor the impact of drawing water from the aquifer.



Major maintenance programs

- Moreton Bay Water's pressure and leakage management project, aimed at reducing water losses from the supply network, has involved integrating three separate projects begun by the former councils into a comprehensive system of monitoring stations. Fine tuning is still under way and Moreton Bay Water has employed a specialised engineer to oversee the monitoring equipment that helps identify leaks and modulate excess water pressure across the region. When fully operational, it is estimated the system will significantly reduce the amount of water lost to pipe bursts and leakage, saving 2.5 megalitres of water a day. This project will assist council to comply with the Water Act's requirement for a strategy to reduce water losses. The State Government has provided a 40 per cent subsidy towards the \$5.8 million project.
- Council contracted IPCQ Pty Ltd to carry out routine maintenance work on the water main attached to the Bribie Island bridge that involved providing a protective coating to the main and replacing its support brackets. The work was carried out using a barge so that traffic wouldn't be disrupted and environmentally sensitive practices were used to reduce the impacts and potential contamination of Pumicestone Passage.

Our treatment technology

Moreton Bay Water's seven sewage treatment plants, not including the Redcliffe Wastewater Treatment Plant which is operated by a contractor, treated 14.6 billion litres in 2008/09. Data measuring quality control aspects at the plants met licence requirements to the satisfaction of the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

More than 970 million litres was reused and the new Murrumba Downs advanced water treatment plant produced 273 million litres for use by industry.

Moreton Bay Water is always seeking cost-effective opportunities to increase effluent reuse, which ultimately helps improve the quality of water in our catchment areas by reducing the amount of nutrients entering our waterways.

Moreton Bay Water's laboratory performed over 103,000 tests on approximately 20,000 samples. External clients include Linkwater, the Northern Pipeline Interconnector Alliance, Aquatec-Maxcon, and Seqwater. The laboratory meets stringent National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accreditation requirements for microbiological and chemical testing and is continuously seeking to increase its scope of accreditation.

A strategic approach to business

As a commercialised business unit in a competitive environment, Moreton Bay Water has to maintain a comprehensive strategic management framework that includes:

- A combined Total Management Plan and Strategic Asset Management Plan (*TMP SAMP*)
- An Annual Performance Plan
- Customer service indicators

Moreton Bay Water's Annual Performance Plan is consistent with council's corporate and operational plans and focuses on the implementation of four key principles of commercialisation: clarity of objectives, management autonomy and authority, accountability for performance and competitive neutrality.

Approved in April 2009, the combined TMP SAMP ensures council meets the State Government's mandatory requirements.

Moreton Bay Water's customer service indicators will be used in the next financial year to compare actual performance to targets.

The indicators quantify:

- Continuity of water supply
- Adequacy and quality of the water supply system
- Effective transport of waste effluent
- Long-term continuity of water supply and sewerage services.

During the 15-month reporting period, Moreton Bay Water has forged ahead in aligning its processes. It is improving its customer focus and productivity through introducing an integrated quality management system.

The system focuses the organisation on its customers, environmental protection and workplace health and safety matters through quality assurance, risk management, review and continual improvement. A new electronic information system called Intellex is helping analyse trends with non-conformance issues and incidents. This information can then be used to devise effective preventative measures.

There are plans to have the system rolled out across the region with certified third party accreditation by August 2009. This business certification encompasses the ISO 9001 quality management standard including ISO 14001 Environmental Management and AS1480 Safety Management.

Moreton Bay Water has a strong environmental team who focus on environmental compliance and management for the sewerage treatment plants and infrastructure construction teams. These are regularly audited by the environmental team.

A new incident management plan has been prepared using a risk management approach designed to minimise the impacts of incidents on customers, the community, the environment and our business reputation.

Our people

During 2008, an enterprise bargaining agreement was certified by Moreton Bay Regional Council and staff salaries and wages were equalised across Moreton Bay Water's operations. Parity negotiations are continuing for allowances and employment working conditions in close consultation with the Sunshine Coast water business, ahead of the amalgamation of the two. The State Government has put in place a formal consultation framework to deal with industrial relations in further detail. This consultation process involves relevant unions, council, the Queensland Water Commission, Queensland Treasury and the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations.

Safety and training

Moreton Bay Water's key performance indicators showed that injury rates roughly halved during the first 15 months of operations. The Medical Injury Rate dropped from around 40 injuries per million hours worked in June 2008 to 20.7 in June 2009. The Lost Time Injury Rate dropped from 36 to 17 injuries per million hours worked over the same period.

An average of 400 staff equivalent hours of training was conducted per month.

Water reform and the future

Implementing the State Government's reforms has involved collecting a significant quantity of data for analysis as part of a due diligence program to ensure council's interests are best served.

The project has included examining the areas of asset valuation and management, financial statements, economic and regulatory measures, human resources and industrial relations issues, business readiness, tax issues, legal equity determination and supporting strategies.

In July 2008, council received compensation from the State Government for the handover of its bulk water assets of approximately \$79 million. This amount was applied to reducing council's loans with the Queensland Treasury Corporation. In the coming financial year, Moreton Bay Water will work closely with its Sunshine Coast counterpart to form the new joint water business that will become operational on 1 July, 2010. This new water distribution retail business will be wholly owned, but independent of the shareholding councils and take over the functions of water distribution, sewage collection and treatment from the councils.

Our Responsibilities

Strategic Planning Wheel

A community that takes pride in the region

- Safe and harmonious communities with high public health standards
- Responsive, high quality community services
- Vibrant cultural life where heritage and creativity are valued
- Iconic events that celebrate the diversity of our community
- Active and healthy lifestyle opportunities
- Connected and strong community where learning is valued
- Diverse housing options for our community

A sustainable environment for all

- Biodiversity and eco-systems are protected and enhanced
- Sustainable development is achieved through high quality planning and design outcomes
- Responsible management of the region's valuable water resources
- Distinctive, attractive, contemporary and efficient urban areas
- Sustainable rural areas
- Provision for balanced development to support sustainable growth, healthy lifestyle and strong communities
- Innovative and sustainable waste management practices
- A region where energy efficiency is valued
- Sustainable marine life, foreshores and coastal areas
- An environment with reduced pollution
- A region that is resilient to climate change
- Maintain a region of natural beauty



- Responsive and accessible customer service
- Strategic partnerships and collaboration with the community, government, industry and private sectors
- Strong leadership that upholds our values and builds relationships and trust within our community
- Open and accountable governance of the region
- Responsible financial management for current and future generations
- An employer of choice where quality staff are attracted, retained and valued
- A learning organisation where continuous improvement drives our operations

- Local job opportunities through a diverse and vibrant economy
- Diverse growing economy that provides opportunities for business and investment
- Multiple transport options and an effective and safe road transport network
- Infrastructure to support the growing economy
- Growing tourism industry that encourages more visitors to the region
- An economically viable place for business and leisure

Serving our community with integrity, pride and accountability

A region of opportunity



Our Responsibilities

Councillors and officers strive to serve the community with integrity, pride and accountability. Council's governance practices focus on providing a framework that demonstrates a high standard of ethical and transparent behaviour at all times.

Councillors and officers are committed to a governance framework that demonstrates clear and objective strategic thinking, ethical decision making, effective performance management, prudent risk management, fiscal responsibility, and open and accountable government. Council's framework for making decisions is outlined in its corporate plan.

Publicly accessible through council's website at www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au, the Corporate Plan 2009 - 2014 takes into account long-term planning, growth management and sustainability issues affecting our region. It gives residents and the business community an understanding of what Moreton Bay Regional Council is striving to achieve over the next five years.

Council adopted its first corporate plan in March 2009, after a community consultation process.

Legislation covering the local government reform process means council is not required to report against corporate or operational plans before 1 July, 2009. However, many of the corporate plan's strategic outcomes and the areas council will focus on are already being considered in the provision of council services.

Council's strategic direction, outlined in the corporate plan, is depicted in the strategic planning wheel (*opposite*) and is built around four major elements for planning.

The 2009/10 operational plan and budget have been prepared to support the corporate plan. Council will report its progress against the operational plan each quarter during the next financial year, to fulfil its obligations under the Local Government Act 1993.

Council meetings

Members of the public may attend council's General and standing committee meetings. The meetings of council's standing committee, the Coordination Committee, commence at 10.30am and General Meetings commence at 4pm, every Tuesday on a rotational basis among the three district offices. From January 2010, council will trial incorporating the Coordination Meeting into the General Meeting which will begin at 10.30am on Tuesdays.

The addresses of the district offices are:

Caboolture District

2 Hasking Street
Caboolture, 4510

Pine Rivers District

220 Gympie Road
Strathpine, 4500

Redcliffe District

Irene Street
Redcliffe, 4020

A schedule of meetings is available on council's website at

www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Community forum

Every General Meeting provides for a 30-minute community comment session during which time residents or ratepayers are permitted to address council for a maximum of five minutes each. Those wishing to address a General Meeting must obtain an appropriate application form, available from council's website www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au or customer service centres, and submit it to the Chief Executive Officer seven days before the General Meeting they wish to address.

Agendas and Minutes of Council Meetings

Agendas and minutes of General, standing and advisory committee meetings are available on council's website www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au and at council's customer service centres and libraries.

In accordance with Section 464 of the Local Government Act 1993, agendas for council's General and committee meetings are open for inspection at least two days prior to the commencement of the meeting.

The minutes of council's General and committee meetings are generally available for inspection the day after the General Meeting at which they are adopted. Copies are obtainable from any of council's Customer Service Centres.

Standing and Advisory Committee meetings

In January 2009, council adopted a new committee system in accordance with section 452 of the Local Government Act 1993. This system provides for one standing committee, to be known as the Coordination Committee and maintains the Audit Committee as an advisory committee.

The Coordination Committee

The Coordination Committee consists of the Mayor and all Councillors.

Coordination Committee meetings feature eight sessions, chaired by a Councillor who is designated as council's Chairperson and Spokesperson for that function. The sessions and respective Chairpersons are as follows:

- Coordination (*Cr Allan Sutherland, Mayor*)
- Strategic & Planning (*Cr Mike Charlton*)
- Corporate Services (*Cr Bob Millar*)
- Parks, Recreation & Sport (*Cr Gary Parsons*)
- Operations (*Cr Mick Gillam*)
- Lifestyle & Amenity (*Cr David Dwyer*)
- Sustainability (*Cr Rae Frawley*)
- Commercial Enterprises (*Cr Brian Battersby*)

The duties and responsibilities of each Session of the Committee are detailed in the Terms of Reference available on council's website.

The responsibilities of the Coordination Committee are as follows:

- Matters which require the consideration of the full council
- Matters of a strategic nature
- Such other business that may be referred by the Mayor or the Chief Executive Officer

The Audit Committee

The Audit Committee has been established as an advisory committee under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 to enable the appointment to the committee of non-elected members with the appropriate expertise.

This committee, which meets on a quarterly basis, is chaired by Councillor Adrian Raedel and is comprised of four Councillors and two external members.

The internal audit function reports to the Audit Committee and is responsible for providing independent advice to the council and to the Chief Executive Officer on governance, risk management, accountability and audit-related matters.

The committee also provides a valuable forum and link with council's external auditors who attend all meetings.

At its meeting in April 2009, the Audit Committee reviewed the Internal Audit Charter and Terms of Reference as part of its annual review process, approved the Audit Plan for the next financial year and endorsed management's recommendation to implement a co-sourced model for the internal audit function.

Confidential matters

Under Section 463 of the Local Government Act 1993, a meeting of council or a committee may be closed to the public, if the council considers it necessary to discuss:

- * the appointment or dismissal or discipline of employees
- * industrial matters affecting employees
- * the local government's budget
- * rating concessions
- * proposed contracts
- * legal proceedings
- * any action to be taken by the council under the Integrated Planning Act 1997, including deciding applications under the Act
- * other business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain financial advantage.

Council or a committee cannot make a resolution (*other than a procedural resolution*) in a closed meeting.

Roles and functions of Councillors

The Local Government Act 1993 outlines the roles and responsibilities of Councillors, the Deputy Mayor and Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer.

Our Councillors:

- represent the overall public interest of the area, including respective divisional areas;
- decide on the facilities, services and enterprises appropriate for the area;
- formulate, adopt and review corporate and operational plans, policies and goals of the council; and
- decide how to achieve those goals and implement appropriate policies.

Councillors must serve the overall public interest of the area, including respective divisional areas. A Councillor must ensure there is no conflict, or possible conflict, between the Councillor's private interest and the honest performance of the Councillor's role of serving the public interest.

The Mayor:

- presides at, and is responsible for the orderly conduct of council meetings, at which the Mayor is present.
- the Mayor ensures the carrying out of council decisions and exercises the powers, and performs the duties given to the role by council.
- the Mayor ensures the appropriate representation of local government at civic and ceremonial functions.

The Deputy Mayor:

- acts in the office and performs the role of the Mayor during a vacancy in the office of the Mayor or the absence or temporary incapacity of the Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor must be appointed from its Councillors by resolution at council's first meeting after local government elections or at its first meeting after the Deputy Mayor's office as Councillor otherwise becomes vacant.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO):

- implements the local government's policies and decisions
- is responsible for organising the presentation of reports and reporting to the local government
- conducts correspondence between council and other persons
- manages and oversees the administration of council and its corporate plan, and coordinates the activities of all council employees.

Code of Conduct

Council has adopted two codes of conduct – one for staff and one for Councillors. Training for staff and Councillors is provided.

These codes of conduct set standards of behaviour for both Councillors and officers. They are available on council's website and in hard copy at all customer service centres.

Breaches of the Councillors' Code of Conduct

There was one alleged Code of Conduct breach made against a Councillor during the reporting period. This alleged breach related to Section 230(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 – Direct or attempting to direct staff – and was referred to the South-East Queensland Code of Conduct Review Panel for investigation. The Review Panel's findings were that the Councillor did not commit any breach.

Our ethical culture

Council encourages Councillors and staff to report official misconduct and supports them in doing so. The Reporting Official Misconduct (*Whistleblowing*) Policy sets out the steps to follow in reporting conduct that could, if proved, be a criminal offence or disciplinary breach. Such a breach may provide reasonable grounds for termination of service.

Councillor remuneration policy

Councillor remuneration is set by the independent Local Government Remuneration Tribunal established under the Local Government Act 1993.

The tribunal determines remuneration for Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors. These pay scales – expressed as a percentage payable to a Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly – take into consideration factors such as the size of the council, the area it covers and the population it serves.

	COUNCIL'S ADOPTED RATE	TRIBUNAL'S RECOMMENDED RANGE
Mayor	142%	130 to 145%
Deputy Mayor	98%	90 to 100%
Councillors	86%	80 to 87.5%

In April 2008, a pay scale was adopted that fell within the tribunal's recommended range for our council. The tribunal also established an amalgamation loading designed to reflect the additional workload expected to be managed by Councillors elected to amalgamated councils in March 2008. The loading is to be progressively phased out over the new council's first term.

For the 15 months to 30 June 2009 amalgamation loadings were:

Mayor	\$17,400
Deputy Mayor	\$12,020
Councillor	\$10,600

The loadings are not included in the remuneration totals below:

Councillor Remuneration							
COUNCILLOR	DIVISION	GENERAL MEETINGS	STANDING/ ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS	REMUNERATION		SUPERANNUATION	
				FROM 16/03/08 TO 30/06/08	FROM 01/07/08 TO 30/06/09	FROM 16/03/08 TO 30/06/08	FROM 01/07/08 TO 30/06/09
Allan Sutherland	Mayor	50	58	\$42,455	\$179,715	\$5,095	\$23,653
Gary Parsons	1	54	88	\$25,726	\$108,842	\$3,087	\$14,333
Chris Whiting	2	52	84	\$25,726	\$108,842	\$3,087	\$14,333
Greg Chippendale	3 (D/Mayor)	54	70	\$29,302	\$124,028	\$3,516	\$16,325
Julie Greer	4	52	84	\$25,726	\$108,842	\$3,087	\$14,333
James Houghton	5	53	85	\$25,726	\$108,842	\$3,087	\$14,333
Rae Frawley	6	53	66	\$25,726	\$108,842	\$3,087	\$14,333
David Dwyer	7	49	67	\$25,726	\$108,842	\$3,087	\$14,333
Mick Gillam	8	50	75	\$25,726	\$108,842	\$3,087	\$14,333
Mike Charlton	9	54	80	\$25,726	\$108,842	\$3,087	\$14,333
Brian Battersby	10	52	70	\$25,726	\$108,842	\$3,087	\$14,333
Bob Millar	11	52	84	\$25,726	\$108,842	\$3,087	\$14,333
Adrian Raedel	12	53	75	\$25,726	\$108,842	\$3,087	\$14,333

- **NOTE:** The number of meetings referred to in the above table relates to Council General, Committee and Advisory meetings only, from 3 April, 2008 to 30 June, 2009. The Mayor & Councillors attended many other types of meetings including those with council officers, briefing and working group sessions, as well as public meetings and appointments with residents and community organisations.

The Reimbursement of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Councillors' Policy ensures Councillors are provided a reasonable level of resources and equipment in order to carry out their official duties in an effective and efficient manner. Councillors have been provided with the following resources/equipment for their term:

Computer	\$2,704	As well as the above equipment councillors have been provided with a fully maintained vehicle at an average cost of \$9,923 per annum. Specifics are listed in the policy on page 61.
Printer	\$658	
Camera	\$201	
Blackberry	\$1,059	
Air Card	\$1,067	

Professional development for Councillors

Councillors, as part of their professional development, attended courses that included the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course, Strategic Thinking Course and other various industry conferences, seminars and workshops.

Overseas travel for Councillors and staff

During the 15 months to 30 June, 2009, two staff undertook overseas travel at a total cost to council of \$5,131.77.

Overseas travel				
OFFICER	POSITION	DESTINATION	PURPOSE	COST
Wes Mortensen	Co-ordinator Parks and Recreation South	New Zealand (Auckland)	Attendance at New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects (NZILA) to present a session paper on the Pine Rivers Shire Council / QUT Albany Creek Open Space Project (see Co-ordination Committee Minutes 4/03/08, Page 08/0537)	\$2,282.46
Susan Trappett	Senior Project Officer	New Zealand (Wellington / Auckland)	Attendance at Australasian Natural Hazards Management Conference	\$2,849.31
TOTAL EXPENSE TO COUNCIL				\$5,131.77

Entertainment and hospitality services

This expenditure relates to all food and beverages provided to Councillors, employees and the public. It includes morning and afternoon teas, lunches, office beverage consumables, official functions, public events and meals provided on training courses. In the 15 months to June, council's entertainment and hospitality expenditure totalled \$825,857.

Advertising

Advertising expenditure generally includes the public communications council makes to its residents and ratepayers and the wider community. Also included are staff recruitment, tendering, public notices, events promotion and other categories of media advertising for print, radio, television and the Internet. The total covers some printed brochures, posters, flyers, billboards and banners. The advertising expenditure of \$3,446,759 is reported in the financial pages.

Consultants

Council relies on the expert advice and recommendations of external entities where it does not have these skills or resources available internally. Below is a summary of council's expenditure on consultants for the reporting period.

CONSULTANTS

Scientific and environmental	\$445,680
Technical services	\$622,965
Information technology	\$405,757
Legal and accounting	\$14,615
Managerial	\$127,600
Other	\$87,190
Total	\$1,703,807

Accountability

Council's Chief Executive Officer maintains a Register of Interests for all Councillors and relevant officers and related persons. Councillors must declare any material personal interest in matters brought before council and leave the chambers when the matter is being considered and voted on. Councillors are also required to disclose any personal or professional associations that could reasonably be regarded as having a conflict of interest in an issue being considered, or about to be considered, at a meeting.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Councillors and relevant officers must declare any gift or accumulation of gifts valued at over \$500 for registration in the Register of Interests for Gifts, Hospitality & Memberships. In accordance with council's 'Gifts, Sponsored Hospitality Benefits, Awards & Prizes' Policy, officers must declare any gifts received over \$100 in value, for registration in the Gifts Register.

All candidates who contest the quadrennial election are required to declare any donations or gifts received and these are recorded in an Electoral Gift Register which is open for inspection.

Access to registers and documents

Council is required under the Local Government Act 1993, to keep certain documents, maintain certain registers and to make these available for public inspection.

The following registers are available for inspection at council's customer service centres at the Caboolture, Redcliffe and Strathpine district offices during office hours. A number of these documents are also available at council's website:

- Fees & Charges
- Council budget
- Financial statement
- Request for Tender Documents issued
- Expression of Interest Register
- Traffic & Transport information sheet
- Council Delegation Register
- Chief Executive Officer's Delegations Register
- Publication Scheme (*RTI*)
- Right to Information (*RTI*) Documents
- Disclosure log
- Right to Information application forms
- Council policies
- Council Minutes and Agendas
- Local Government Act 1993
- Councillors' Register of Interests
- Corporate Plan
- Operational Plan
- Register of Gifts and Sponsored Hospitality Benefits
- Register of Awards and Recognition
- Electoral Gift Register
- Gift Register
- Local Laws Register
- Annual Report
- Codes of Conduct
- Register of Backflow Prevention Devices Section 38
- Register of Onsite Sewerage Facilities (*Section 143 of Plumbing and Drainage Act*)
- Register of Plumbing Notices (*Section 5.7.2 of the Integrated Planning Act*)

Council produces numerous free publications on a range of topics from community health matters to tourism which are usually available from council's district offices and libraries.

Council's website www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au offers extensive information including council meeting agendas, electronic copies of Moreton Living newsletters, media releases, job vacancies and the minutes of council meetings.

Competitive neutrality

Section 847 of the Local Government Act 1993 states that any person or organisation competing with a local government activity may lodge a complaint should they feel they cannot compete fairly or may have lost business due to a competitive advantage. Council's registered business units – The Certification Professionals and Moreton Bay Water – compete on the open market for business.

Council received no investigation notices for complaints and references during 2008/09. As a result, there were no recommendations from the referee or the Queensland Competition Authority.

The Certification Professionals

Moreton Bay Regional Council's business unit The Certification Professionals offers private building certification and other related services throughout Queensland. Section 761 of the Local Government Act 1993 defines this as a Building Certification Business Activity to which the Code of Competitive Conduct is to apply. The code requires a local government, if possible, to eliminate any advantages and disadvantages arising because the activity is publicly owned.

The Certification Professionals ensures new buildings are safely constructed, provide a healthy living environment and are energy efficient. The business provides an efficient and competitive service and maintains high standards of customer service.

Despite the economic downturn, The Certification Professionals continued to grow in 2008/09, with an expansion of services into Caboolture and Redcliffe following the creation of Moreton Bay Regional Council. In addition, the Commonwealth Government's boost to the first homeowners grant scheme increased application numbers for new houses.

Freedom of Information

Under the Freedom of Information Act 1992 any person has a legal enforceable right to access documents held by council.

During the reporting year, council received 83 applications under the Act, of which 10 remained outstanding at the end of the financial year. One application went to internal review.

The Right to Information Act came into effect from 1 July 2009 replacing the Freedom of Information Act 1993.

Applications to access documents under the Right to Information Act must be made on the approved form, which is available from council's website and customer service centres.

Levy of Special and Separate Charges

Moreton Bay Regional Council is still working to align its fees and charges. During the 15 months to 30 June, some special and separate levies applied in some districts but not others. These were:

Rural Fire Levy Special Charge

– Caboolture and Pine Rivers districts

To assist the Rural Fire Brigade in the upgrade and maintenance of equipment necessary to provide a rural fire service in the areas where it is applied.

Rural Recycling and Waste Management Special Charge

– Caboolture and Pine Rivers districts

Levied on occupied rateable land where there is no wheelie bin service charge. It is to assist in meeting the cost associated with supply of recycling and waste disposal facilities.

Environmentally Relevant Activities Special Charge

– Caboolture district

Charged on rateable land which is used for prescribed environmentally relevant activities to fund the cost of a structured program for regulatory and enforcement inspection of those premises.

Dangerous Goods Storage Inspection Program Special Charge – Caboolture district

To fund the cost of a structured program for regulatory and enforcement inspection of premises used for the storage of flammable and combustible liquids.

Environment Monitoring Special Charge

– Caboolture district

Charged on rateable land within the Narangba Industrial Estate which is used to conduct a hazardous industry. To fund the development and implementation of a council monitoring program for hazardous industries conducted in the estate.

Emergency Management Special Charge

- Caboolture district

Charged on rateable land within the Narangba Industrial Estate which is used to conduct a hazardous industry. To fund the development and implementation of a council emergency management program for hazardous industries conducted in the estate.

Canal Special Charge – Redcliffe district

To fund works for preserving, maintaining and keeping clean and navigable the canals at Newport Waterways.

Aerodrome Special Charge – Redcliffe district

To fund works for the operations, maintenance, repair and upgrading of Redcliffe aerodrome.

Environment Levy - Pine Rivers district

For the purpose of acquiring environmentally significant

land and carrying out actions on that land that directly relate to environmentally significant land preservation, protection, nature conservation and maintenance.

Risk management and insurance

The new council has continued the risk assessment practices of the three former councils. An overarching risk management policy and framework is being developed following the principles of Enterprise Risk Management.

This updated framework will take into account the change from Australian Standard AS 4360 to the new ISO 30001 standard as well as council's revised management structure.

Council's current risk management policies comply with Australia/New Zealand Standards AS/NZ 4360 as well as Workplace Health and Safety legislation. These policies ensure that all managers, service providers and employees are accountable for identifying, analysing and mitigating risk.

The new council has already standardised many of its workplace, health and safety policies, systems and practices, including standardised safety improvement plans, risk registers and training measures to improve staff awareness of workplace health and safety issues.

The new council was able to achieve cost savings by combining the insurance programs of three former councils into one for the first 21 months of operations. This also ensured requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 were met until all insurance exposures could be assessed and a new program developed.

Council's insurance needs are dictated by a range of issues, some of which have altered significantly as a result of amalgamation and changes to council's structure and operations.

Council is now calling for tenders for a new insurance program designed to meet council's requirements. This new insurance coverage will replace the former combined policies that expire in December 2009.

Tenders

Council altered tender specifications on two occasions during the reporting period. They were:

Design and Construct Proposed State Equestrian Centre

Construction of the Seaside Museum at Bongaree
There were no resolutions made under Section 489 of the Local Government Act 1993 (*short listing after calling for expressions of interest*).

Regional, sub-regional and intergovernmental relationships

The Mayor, Councillors and Senior Managers meet regularly with other Local Authorities and Government Agencies to foster regional co-operation on issues affecting South-East Queensland. Some of these relationships include:

- Urban Local Government Association
- Local Government Association of Queensland Inc.
- Council of Mayors*
- Council of Mayors Environment & Sustainability Committee*
- Council of Mayors Rural Forum Group*
- Council of Mayors Regional Plan & Growth Management Committee*
- Council of Mayors Infrastructure Committee*
- Council of Mayors Regional Landscape & Open Space Advisory Committee*
- SEQ Water Corporation
- Brisbane District Disaster Management Group
- Main Roads Metropolitan District Tourism Signage Committee
- Regional Galleries Association of Queensland
- Cities for Climate Protection (CCP)
- Moreton Bay Taskforce
- Qld Coastal Councils Group
- Regional Coastal Management Plan for SEQ Dept. Environment
- North-East Moreton Mosquito Organisation (NEMMO)
- Regional Urban Integrated Water Management Group
- Upper Brisbane Region Catchment Network Inc.

* Moreton Bay Regional Council withdrew financial support to the Council of Mayors in June 2009 due to the economic impact of the global financial crisis.

Reimbursement of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Councillors

Council will pay direct or reimburse the councillor reasonable expenses relating only to the categories listed below provided that those expenses are part of the process of councillors discharging their official duties:

- (1) **Council business** – representing council at conferences and workshops or delivering a paper on behalf of council, provided that such attendance has been specifically directed/authorised by a resolution of council, reimbursement of expenses to the extent specified in the Reimbursement of Travel Expenses Policy Directive applies. Where the Mayor or councillor is required to represent council at events and functions in the South-East Queensland any expenses associated with this attendance will be met by council. In the case of the Mayor, when accompanied by his/her spouse/partner, or where the Mayor delegates the attendance to another councillor to represent him/her, any expenses associated with the attendance of the spouse/partner will be met by council. The Reimbursement of Travel Expenses Policy Directive is available on request at customer service centres.
- (2) **Professional development needs** – the payment of expenses for mandatory professional development requires council approval. There are two categories of professional development for councillors being mandatory training and discretionary training:
 - a. **Mandatory training** – ie, training on council related matters which council deems to be necessary by resolution. Examples of such training include councillor induction, code of conduct, meeting procedures and legislative obligations. Council will meet all costs associated with mandatory training. Where councillors are members of professional associations which address ongoing training needs and professional development for councillors, this is regarded as mandatory training for the purposes of this policy.
 - b. **Discretionary training** – ie, where a councillor identifies a need to attend a conference, workshop or training to improve skills relevant to his or her role as a councillor, other than mandatory training as above or acquire publications including reference material to improve skills relevant to his/her role, expenses shall be reimbursed up to a maximum amount in accordance with the guidelines. The funding limit for each councillor for discretionary training is \$5,000, adjusted by the annual CPI increase, during their four year term of office.
- (3) **Travel costs** – within the scope identified in the Reimbursement of Travel Expenses Policy Directive (the cost of using private vehicles for council purposes will be reimbursed but only if such use is authorised by a resolution of council and the claim is based on log book details which substantiate the relevance of the travel for council business).
- (4) **Accommodation** – accommodation, and related incidental costs associated with travel for council business related purposes (reimbursement of expenses to the extent specified in the Reimbursement of Travel Expenses Policy Directive applies).
- (5) **Meals** – the actual cost of each meal when travelling for business related purposes subject to the maximum cost listed in the Reimbursement of Travel Expenses Policy Directive.
- (6) **Hospitality expenses** – reimbursement to each councillor is limited to \$500/annum while reimbursement to the Mayor is limited to \$6,000/annum, adjusted by the annual CPI increase.
- (7) **Cab charge** – reimbursement of cab charges or public transport tickets to attend official council functions only.

Any expense incurred by any councillor, which is either beyond the scope of, or in excess of, the levels of reimbursement listed above is the sole responsibility of the councillor who incurred the expense.

Council Supplied Or Subsidised Facilities

Council will cover the complete cost of the supply and use of the facilities listed below except for those costs associated with personal/private or other non-council related use. Any Councillor may request facilities beyond the scope or standard listed below, however, those enhanced facilities, if made available, will only be provided if that Councillor pays the difference in cost between the standard facilities and those requested.

All facilities provided to councillors remain the property of council and must be returned when a Councillor resigns or when his/her term expires.

Each Councillor is to have access to the following basic facilities under the categories listed:

Administrative tools and office amenities:

1. An individual office for the Mayor and each Divisional Councillor.
2. Secretarial support for the Mayor and Councillors be provided as determined appropriate by the Chief Executive Officer.
3. A laptop/computer for council business. The standard of computer shall be similar to that available to council managers.
4. A digital camera.
5. Council's landline, network and internet facilities. Remote (including home office) access to council's network and the internet may be via a council provided wireless connection.
6. A shared fax/scanner which is dedicated to use solely by, or on behalf of, Councillors at each district office.
7. A single printer, shared copier and paper shredder which is dedicated to use solely by, or on behalf of, councillors at each district office.
8. Stationery for official purposes only. Council stationery is not to be converted or modified in any way and may only be used for carrying out the functions of the role of Councillor. Stationery is not to be used for promotion of the Councillor for election purposes.
9. Publications, copies of relevant legislation, books and journals related to council's business operations and local government generally.

Home office

Councillors may be provided with a facsimile machine and printer for business use only. For home office telecommunication needs, including internet, refer to item 5.

Maintenance costs of council equipment

Council will cover all ongoing maintenance costs associated with council owned equipment to ensure it is operating for optimal professional use.

Name badges and uniforms

Councillors will be provided with corporate clothing including jackets, shirts, skirts, trousers, ties and scarves etc, to the value of \$350 per term and will be supplied with name badges and any safety equipment required to fulfil their role.

Vehicles

Unless otherwise requested by an individual Councillor, council shall provide each councillor a vehicle for council business. Alternatively, a Councillor may be reimbursed travel costs in accordance with the Reimbursement of Travel Expenses Policy Directive. Private use of a council vehicle is allowed subject to compliance with council's Motor Vehicle Policy.

Telecommunication needs

Councillors will be provided with a mobile telephone or a hand held PDA device (e.g. Blackberry) in order to carry out their role as councillor with council meeting all costs. In the case of the Mayor the cost of installation, rental and calls of a dedicated council business use telephone to his/her residence, will be met by council.

If a Councillor uses a personally owned mobile device for council business, council will reimburse the costs incurred (rental and calls) for business related use.

Legal costs and insurance cover

Council may, by resolution, decide and pursuant to Section 240 of the Local Government Act, to cover costs incurred through any inquiry, investigation, hearing or legal proceedings into the conduct of a Councillor, or arising out of, or in connection with the Councillor's performance of his/her civic functions.

Councillors will be covered under council insurance policies while discharging civic duties. Specifically, insurance cover will be provided for public liability, professional indemnity, Councillor's liability, personal accident and/or workers compensation, international and domestic travel insurance.

Loan Borrowing Policy 2008/09

Head of Power

Local Government Act 1993, Chapter 7, Part 5
 Local Government Finance Standard 2005, Section 8 and 55
 Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982

Objective

To establish the framework for council to borrow money to fund budgeted expenditure.

Definition

Borrowings – includes forms of borrowings as set out in the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982

Application

Applies to all forms of borrowing undertaken by council.

Policy Statement

1. Council will only undertake to borrow monies for purposes within its jurisdiction.
2. Borrowings will be made in accordance with the requirements of section 55 of the Local Government Finance Standard 2005 which states that borrowings may only be made for:
 - capital expenditure; or
 - short-term working capital; or
 - a genuine emergency or hardship; or
 - establishing a commercial debt structure for its commercial business units.
3. Borrowings will be undertaken in accordance with the Queensland Treasury Corporation Guidelines and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982.
4. Borrowing requirements will be determined on a council-wide basis and will give consideration to:
 - Borrowings will only be made for capital expenditure
 - Borrowings will be for a period which is less than or equal to the estimated useful life of the related asset(s)
 - Borrowing decisions are to be taken in accordance with the appropriate financial ratios as determined by council.
5. Borrowings will only be made for expenditure which has been approved through the annual budget cycle. As part of this process, and in accordance with section 8 of the Local Government Finance Standard 2005, each financial year the borrowings policy will state:
 - the new borrowings planned for the financial year and the next four financial years;

- the purpose of the new borrowings; and
- the time over which it is planned to repay existing and proposed borrowings.

This information will be published in the council's annual budget and annual report.

6. Council has a general approval from Queensland Treasury to borrow funds from the Queensland Treasury Corporation subject to the approval of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation. A separate approval of the Treasurer is required should the council wish to borrow from a source other than Queensland Treasury Corporation.
7. The Finance Department will be responsible for undertaking periodic reviews of council's borrowings in order to ensure the amount, terms and interest charged represent the optimum financial position for council.
8. Borrowing costs are to be recognised as a capital expense where the criteria of the relevant accounting standard can be met, otherwise they will be expensed as they are incurred.

Review Triggers

This policy is reviewed annually as part of the budget cycle for applicability, continuing effect and consistency with related documents and other legislative provisions when any of the following occurs:

- (1) The related documents are amended.
- (2) The related documents are replaced by new documents.
- (3) Amendments which affect the allowable scope and effect of a policy of this nature are made to the head of power.
- (4) Other circumstances as determined from time to time by a resolution of council.

Responsibility

This policy is to be:

- (1) implemented by the Director Corporate Services; and
- (2) reviewed and amended in accordance with the "review triggers" by the Director Corporate Services.

Existing Borrowings

Approximately \$79 million of council's existing borrowings were extinguished with the transfer of Bulk Water Assets to the State Government on 1 July, 2008. All remaining water and sewerage applied debt will be transferred to the Water Distribution and/or Water Retail Entities upon their formation on 1 July, 2010. All remaining general infrastructure applied debt will be extinguished by 30 June, 2023.

Amount of Purpose of Budgeted Loan Borrowings

LOAN PURPOSE	TERM (YEARS)	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
General Infrastructure including Roads and Drains, Parks and Community Purpose Land	15	63,642,830	57,853,479	76,320,510	49,063,278	52,464,858
Water and Sewerage Infrastructure	20	95,613,046	69,009,774			
TOTAL		159,255,876	126,863,253	76,320,510	49,063,278	52,464,858

Revenue Policy 2008/09

Head of Power

Local Government Act 1993

Local Government Finance Standard 2005, (Standard)

Objective

Sections 513A and 513B of the Act require the council to adopt a Revenue Policy each financial year that complies with Section 12 of the Standard. The purpose of this policy is to identify the principles applied by council for:

- making and levying rates and charges
- exercising its power to grant concessions
- recovering unpaid rates and charges

Definitions/Application

This Revenue Policy applies for the 2008/2009 financial year.

Policy Statement

1. Transitional Rating Arrangements

The council acknowledges the difficulty in achieving the short term alignment of the former Caboolture and Pine Rivers Shires and Redcliffe City Councils' disparate revenue policies and the significant impact on some ratepayers if short term alignment was pursued. In order to properly manage the alignment and consolidation of the former councils' revenue policies, the council will implement the process over a number of years. This approach will see the council applying its power to make and levy rates and charges under Chapter 14 of the Act within the former councils' local government areas on a similar basis to that adopted by each of the former councils.

This "district" approach will limit the level of rates disruption in the first year of the amalgamated council and allow sufficient time to properly consider and address the issues relating to an aligned and consolidated revenue policy over subsequent years.

2. Making of Rates and Charges

Rates and charges will be determined on the basis of achieving net revenue which is sufficient to allow the council to meet its budgetary responsibilities for the various activities of the council. In making rates and charges, the council will have regard to:

- transparency – openness in the processes involved in the making of rates and charges
- accountability – making decisions and acknowledging the effects of those decisions
- simplicity - a rating regime that is simple and cost efficient to administer
- equity - having regard to the different levels of district based rates and charges so as to minimise the impact of amalgamation in the short term

- flexibility - responding where possible to unforeseen changes in the local economy
- fiscal responsibility – levying an amount sufficient to allow the council to meet its budgetary responsibilities

3. Limitation on Increase in General Rates

The council will limit increases in differential general rates levied in the previous financial year to a maximum stated percentage for those differential rating categories identified in the council's Revenue Statement. Increases in other rates or charges will not be subject to limitation in this way.

4. General Rates

The council will make and levy differential general rates pursuant to section 963 of the Act generally based upon the revenue policies of the former Caboolture and Pine Rivers Shires and Redcliffe City Councils. Differential general rates will be levied on all rateable land in the region. This district based differential rating approach seeks to achieve broad rating equity that could not otherwise be achieved by a single regional rate in the dollar. Within all categories, a minimum general rate will be applied to ensure that all owners contribute a minimum equitable amount towards the council's general revenue requirements in circumstances where levying rates based solely on land valuation would not achieve that outcome. When determining differential rating outcomes, the council may have regard to:

- minimising the impact amalgamation has on rates in the short term
- the effects of district based rating outcomes compared to regional outcomes of a consolidated revenue policy
- the level of services available to the land and the cost of making those services available
- the level of utilisation of services by the land in particular the consumption of council resources, services and infrastructure

5. Special Rates and Charges & Separate Rates and Charges

Special and Separate rates and charges will be levied to generate funds required to provide services and activities that the council considers will specifically benefit defined (special) or all (separate) areas of rateable properties within a district or across the entire region.

6. Utility Rates and Charges

Utility charges are generally based upon the principle of user pays. In order to smooth the effects of amalgamation, the council may choose to utilise district based differential utility charges in the short term.

Water

Charges will reflect the full cost of providing a water reticulation network and will be based on an access fee and a tiered volumetric charge for water consumed. In setting water charges, council will have regard to achieving a rate of return consistent with national competition policy principles in the medium term.

Sewerage

Charges will reflect the full cost of providing a sewerage reticulation network that, where possible, manages the treatment of sewage to a high quality recyclable product that contributes to water conservation strategies. In setting sewerage charges, council will have regard to achieving a rate of return consistent with national competition policy principles in the medium term.

Waste Management

Charges are based upon full cost recovery of providing a kerbside collection service, availability of refuse stations and development of waste management strategies for the protection of the environment.

7. Levying of Rates and Charges

In levying rates and charges, the council will apply the principles of:

- responsibility – making clear the obligations and responsibility of both council and ratepayers in respect to rates and charges.
- accountability – making decisions and acknowledging the effects of those decisions.
- cost – making the levying process simple and cost effective to administer.
- flexibility – responding where possible to unforeseen changes in the local economy.
- timeliness – ensuring ratepayers are given adequate notice of their liability to pay rates and charges.

8. Concessions for rates and charges

In considering the application of concessions, the council will be guided by the principles of:

- equity – acknowledging the different levels of capacity to pay.
- accountability – making decisions and acknowledging the effects of those decisions.
- transparency – making clear the availability of concessions and eligibility requirements.
- flexibility – responding where possible to unforeseen changes in the local economy.
- fairness – taking into consideration the circumstances that lead up to the application for a concession.
- sustainability – long term planning to ensure the financial sustainability of concessions.

The council intends to exercise its power under section 1035A of the Act to partly remit rates and utility charges for the purpose of recognising the particular financial and related circumstances of qualifying pensioners within the region.

9. Recovery of unpaid rates and charges

The council will exercise its rate recovery powers in order to reduce the overall rate burden on ratepayers and to better manage the scarce financial resources of the council. It will be guided by the principles of:

- responsibility – making clear the obligations of ratepayers to pay rates.
- transparency – making clear the consequences of failing to pay rates.
- accountability – ensuring due legal processes are applied to all ratepayers in the recovery process
- capacity to pay – negotiating arrangements for payment where appropriate.
- equity – applying the same treatment for ratepayers with the same circumstances.
- flexibility – responding where possible to unforeseen changes in the local economy.
- cost – making the processes used to recover outstanding rates and charges clear, simple to administer and cost effective.

Review Triggers

This policy is reviewed internally for applicability, continuing effect and consistency with related documents and other legislative provisions when any of the following occurs:

- The related documents are amended.
- The related documents are replaced by new documents.
- Amendments which affect the allowable scope and effect of a policy of this nature are made to the head of power.
- Other circumstances as determined from time to time by a resolution of council.

Notwithstanding the above, this policy is to be reviewed annually in accordance with the Act.

Responsibility

This policy is to be:

- implemented by the Director Corporate Services; and
- reviewed and amended in accordance with the “review triggers” by the Director Corporate Services.



Our Financials

#Council's
strong financial position
has a net **positive**
cash flow





Our Financials

What is this report all about?

This report is designed to give community members with limited experience in reading financial statements, a better understanding of the financial performance (*what we earned and what we spent*) and position (*the financial health*) of Moreton Bay Regional Council.

This report describes the financial statements on a step-by-step basis, to help explain what each statement means.

This report focuses on:

- The Income Statement
- The Balance Sheet
- The Cash Flow Statement
- The Statement of Changes in Equity

Each statement tells a story about council's finances. It's a bit like watching television. You need a number of key elements working together to create a clear picture. Imagine a television without power or an aerial – you would not get the picture. To get a clear picture of council's financial health, it is important to examine each of the financial statements. In addition to the financial statements, the accompanying notes help to explain what has occurred during the reporting period and disclose other important information.

What is the reporting period?

You might notice that the financial statements cover the period from 15 March 2008 to 30 June 2009. This reporting period is unique to these financial statements as it covers the period from the amalgamation of the three former councils, to the typical reporting end date of 30 June. Next year, the financial statements will cover the standard reporting period, from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

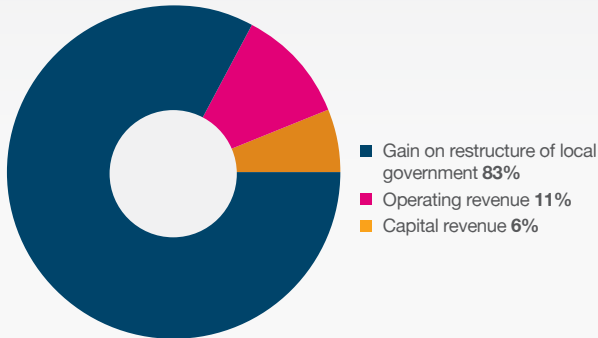
So what does it all mean?

This next section will attempt to break down each financial statement in more detail to help explain what it means and how it fits into the overall analysis of council's financial health (*performance and position*).

The Income Statement

The Income Statement illustrates how council has performed for the period. It was previously known as the Profit and Loss Statement. The Income Statement illustrates what we have earned (*revenue*) and what we have spent (*expenses*) on maintaining and operating the community services and assets council provides.

What have we earned?



There are three main categories of revenue for this financial year; Gain on Restructure of Local Government, Operating Revenue and Capital Revenue.

For the reporting period, the majority of revenue comes from the 'Gain on Restructure of Local Government'. This represents the value (*the assets and liabilities*) of the former councils that now form Moreton Bay Regional Council. This figure is unique to this reporting period, because it relates directly to the amalgamation and won't appear next financial year.

The operating revenue of council is the money raised that is used to fund operating expenses. The majority of operating revenue is derived from rates and utility charges. These funds come directly from the council's major stakeholder – the community.

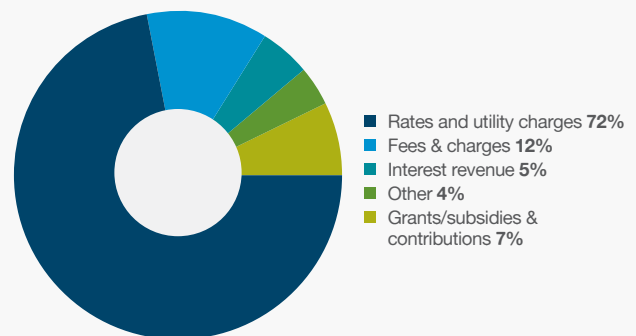
Rates are very important as the money ensures council can provide many essential services to the community such as clean water, sewerage, waste facilities, roads and stormwater drainage. The rates are also used to fund operations such as libraries, swimming pools, cultural facilities, parks, and sport and recreation areas.

Other operating revenue includes fees and charges (*such as dog licences, health licences, building and development applications*), grants and subsidies (*provided by the State and Federal Government and in some cases the private sector*), interest revenue (*which is earned by investing surplus cash*) and other income (*sale of goods and services, private works and other revenue sources*).

REVENUE - What we have earned

REVENUE	\$'000
Operating Revenue	
Rates and utility charges	327,058
Fees and charges	55,321
Grants, subsidies and contributions	31,990
Interest revenue	25,154
Other	18,914
Total Operating Revenue	458,437
Capital Revenue	
Grants, subsidies and contributions	208,213
Net (loss) on disposal of fixed assets	(1,189)
Total Capital Revenue	207,024
Capital Income	
Net gain due to water reform	42,486
Gain on restructure of local government	3,486,987
Total Capital Income	3,529,473
TOTAL REVENUE	4,194,934

Operating Revenue



Capital revenue is sourced for the specific purpose of constructing council's assets now and in the future. The majority of council's capital revenue is derived from grants and subsidies (*provided by the State and Federal Government*) and contributions (*provided by developers, builders and individuals*).

On 1 July 2008, council transferred assets to the Bulk Water Authority. The net gain due to water reform represents the difference between the compensation received and the book value of assets transferred. Like the gain on restructure of local government, the gain due to water reform is also unique to this reporting period.

The net loss on disposal of assets represents the difference between the money received for the sale of assets, and the value of the assets on council's books.

OPERATING EXPENSES

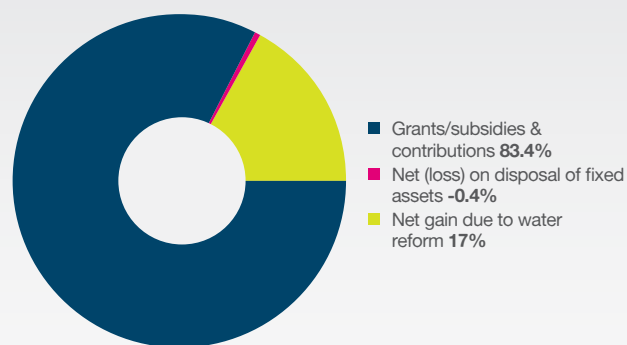
EXPENSE	\$'000
Employee costs	179,666
Materials and services	222,700
Depreciation	101,511
Amortisation	1,494
Finance costs	13,566
Other	413
TOTAL EXPENSE	519,350

Operating expenses represent the cost to council of running services, operating facilities and maintaining assets.

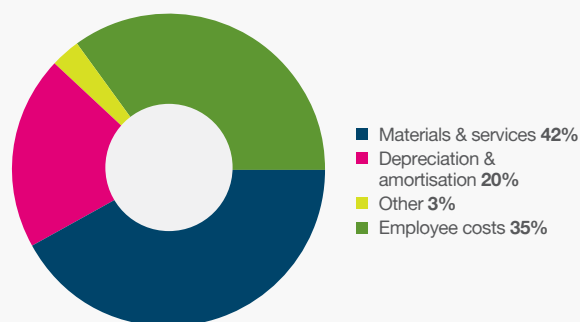
Materials and services are the goods and services required for operational and maintenance purposes within council. These make up 42 per cent of council's expenses. Employee costs are the labour costs that council incurs in operating and maintaining the services and assets of the region. Depreciation and amortisation represents the cost of council's assets over time. These assets amount to \$3.9 billion and include roads, drains, storm water infrastructure, water and sewerage infrastructure and cultural assets.

Capital expenditure (*what we spend to build or enhance assets*) is not shown on the Income Statement. Instead, capital expenditure is reflected in the Balance Sheet and is discussed on page 70.

Capital Revenue



What does it cost to operate and maintain council services and assets?



NET RESULT **\$3,675,584**

The net result is sometimes known in the commercial world as 'profit or loss'. This term is not used by local government, because council is a not-for-profit entity. That is, the difference between what we earn (*revenue*) and what we spend (*expense*), is expected to be neutral (*zero*) or in a positive position to generate funding for future years (*strategic planning*).

The net result for this period is extremely large compared to prior years and expected future years. The Income Statement shows two substantial transactions related to local government amalgamation and water reform in South-East Queensland. Without these two items, the net result would have been \$146 million.

The Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet illustrates council’s financial position – what we own or are entitled to (*assets*); and what we owe and the sort of debts we have (*liabilities*). The difference between what we own (*assets*) and what we owe (*liabilities*) is council’s equity. The more assets we own and the less money we owe, the better the financial position, or net community wealth of council.

ASSETS - What we own (or what is owed to us)

ASSETS	\$'000
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	317,160
Trade and other receivables	50,254
Other assets	4,245
Total Current Assets	371,659
Non-current Assets	
Trade and other receivables	205
Intangible assets	3,715
Property, plant and equipment	3,894,793
Capital works in progress	324,892
Other assets	1,682
Total Non-current Assets	4,225,287

The majority of council’s assets are fixed assets, or Property Plant and Equipment. These are council owned assets that benefit the community and have a life of more than one year. Infrastructure assets make up the majority of Property Plant and Equipment. Infrastructure assets are often taken for granted. These are the roads that we drive on every day, the bridges we cross, the drains that take our storm water away, the pipes that bring our water to us, the sewers we use when we flush the toilet, and the waste facilities where our rubbish goes.

Property Plant and Equipment also includes the trucks, diggers and other vehicles that are used to fix our roads, and maintain our assets.

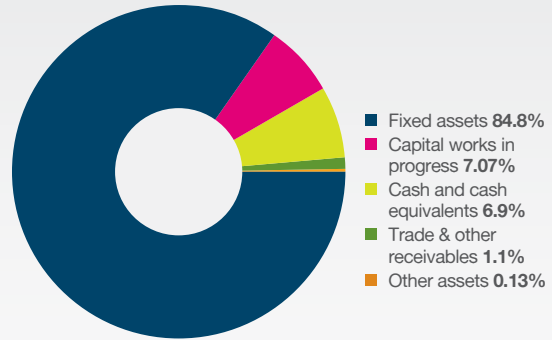
Cultural and Heritage assets are also considered of value to council and are included as an asset.

Note 18 in the financial statements shows a more detailed break down of these assets and their values.

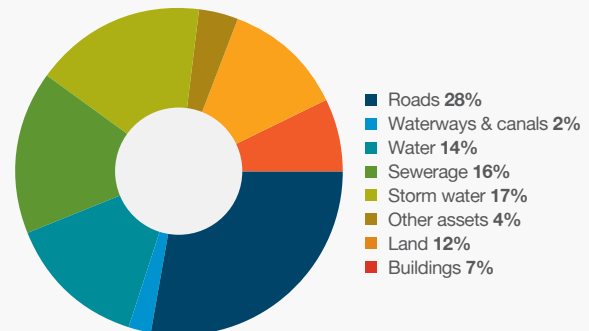
Every year, council spends a significant amount on replacing, upgrading and constructing fixed assets to ensure adequate infrastructure and services.

In this reporting period, 33 per cent of capital expenditure was spent on roads, 30 per cent on new land and buildings and 28 per cent on water infrastructure. The assets still under construction are classified in the Balance Sheet as capital work in progress.

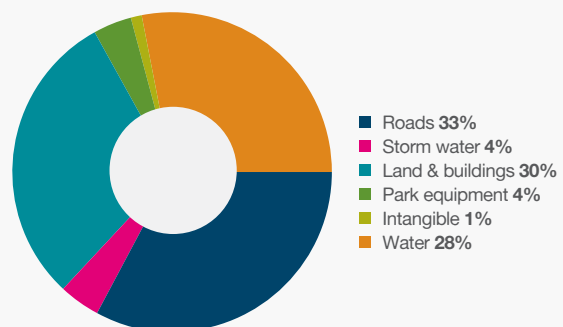
What do we own?



Property Plant & Equipment



Capital Expenditure



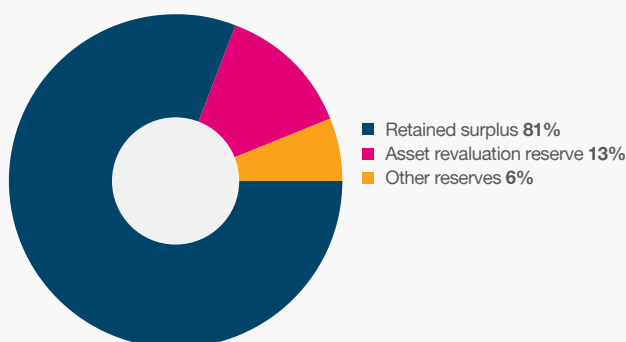
ASSETS - What we own (or what is owed to us)

LIABILITIES	\$'000
Current Liabilities	
Trade and other payables	48,900
Interest bearing liabilities	56,580
Provision for employee entitlements	4,351
Provision for restoration	285
Unearned revenue	2,631
Total Current Liabilities	112,747
Non-Current Liabilities	
Trade and other payables	5,057
Interest bearing liabilities	212,392
Provision for employee entitlements	18,902
Provision for restoration	11,321
Total Non-current Liabilities	247,672
TOTAL LIABILITIES	360,419

Liabilities are what council owes suppliers, employees and lenders, both now and in the future. The current liabilities illustrate what we owe within the next 12 months. The non-current liabilities show what is owing in the future.

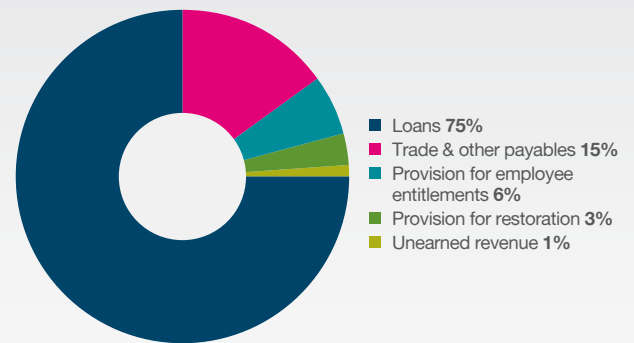
Liabilities also represent future estimated costs to be incurred (*provisions*). The two provisions that council holds in its Balance Sheet are for employee entitlements and restoration costs. The provision for employee entitlements is an estimate of what is expected to be paid to council's employees in long-service leave and accumulated sick leave. The provision for restoration is the estimated future cost of restoring landfill sites to their original condition.

Community Equity



Community Equity is the difference between council's total assets and total liabilities. It represents the net wealth of council. It is broken up between the Asset Revaluation Reserve (*the net amounts our fixed assets have increased over the years as market values have increased*), Other Reserves (*money council has set aside for specific 'rainy days'*) and Retained Surplus (*the net amount of community wealth not yet allocated to specific reserves*).

What do we owe?



The largest liability council holds is loans from the Queensland Treasury Corporation. Council borrows money for funding capital expenditure. As discussed in the assets section on page 70, capital expenditure is expenditure on essential assets such as roads, bridges, drains, water and sewerage infrastructure. Loans for water and sewerage infrastructure are taken out over a term of 20 years and all other borrowings have a term of 15 years. The weighted average interest rate on borrowings is 6.36 per cent.

COMMUNITY EQUITY – Community wealth

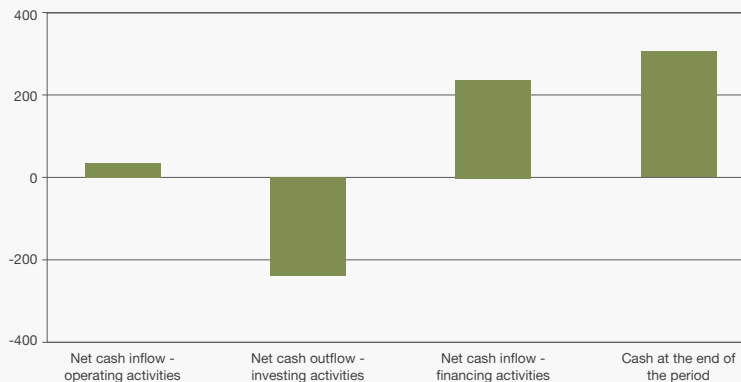
COMMUNITY EQUITY	\$'000
Retained surplus	3,437,228
Asset revaluation reserve	560,943
Other reserves	238,356
TOTAL COMMUNITY EQUITY	4,236,527

Cash Flow Statement

Statement of Cash Flows - For the period 15 March 2008 to 30 June 2009

	\$'000
Cash Flows From Operating Activities	
Receipts in the course of operations	474,324
Payments to suppliers and employees	(441,141)
Interest and other costs of finance paid	(11,085)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	22,098
Cash Flows From Investing Activities	
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(408,070)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	2,973
Other capital proceeds	135,324
Interest and dividends received	25,154
Net cash outflow from investing activities	(244,619)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities	
Net loans to community organisations	35
Proceeds from borrowings	258,444
Repayment of borrowings	(11,576)
Net cash inflow from financing activities	246,903
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	24,382
Cash and equivalents transferred on amalgamation	292,778
Cash and equivalents at the end of the period	317,160

Net Cash Flow Sources



The Cash Flow Statement shows how council has generated its cash.

Like any business, sound cash management is essential. Without cash:

1. Council could not pay its bills and employees.
2. Council may miss opportunities to invest money in assets that provide it with the best return for the community.
3. Council may be forced to borrow money that it doesn't need which costs council, and ultimately the community, money in interest.

The Cash Flow Statement is split up into three main cash components:

1. Operating Activities – these generate cash from normal operations, seen in the Income Statement as operating revenue and operating expenses. For an organisation to be healthy there must be positive cash flows from operating activities (*net cash inflows*).
2. Investing Activities – these relate to the purchasing and disposal of long-term assets (*like Property Plant and Equipment*).
3. Financing Activities – these relate to the receipt and repayment of council borrowings. This figure can be positive or negative, depending on council's needs, so long as the level of debt is kept in check. The borrowings value is seen in the Balance Sheet.

The Statement of Changes in Equity

The Statement of Changes in Equity illustrates how the equity (*the difference between what we own and what we owe*) has changed as a result of what has happened on the income statement (*retained surplus*) and what has happened to the value of fixed assets on the balance sheet (*asset revaluation reserve*).

Other reserves form the part of Community Equity that has been put aside for future projects such as replacing roads and building bridges. The other reserve balance increases when money is transferred from the retained surplus (*which has come from the net result on the Income Statement*), and decreases when its funds are used for specific projects.

Statement of Changes in Equity - For the period 15 March 2008 to 30 June 2009

	RETAINED SURPLUS	ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE	OTHER RESERVES	TOTAL COMMUNITY EQUITY
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening Balance	-	-	-	-
Surplus for the period	3,675,584	-	-	3,675,584
Movement in the asset revaluation reserve	-	560,943	-	560,943
Total recognised income and expense	3,675,584	560,943	-	4,236,527
Transfers to and from reserves				
Transfers to reserves	(351,317)	-	351,317	-
Transfers from reserves	112,961	-	(112,961)	-
Total transfers to and from reserve	(238,356)	-	238,356	-
Balance at 30 June 2009	3,437,228	560,943	238,356	4,236,527

Summing it all up

The first set of Moreton Bay Regional Council Financial Statements illustrates that council is in a strong financial position, with a net positive cash flow (*more money coming in than going out*) and a Balance Sheet that indicates council has enough money to cover its obligations in 2009/10.

Council's commitment to sound financial management and strategic planning will help ensure the continuing success and stability of our beautiful region.

Want to know more?

Please email your questions to mbrc@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

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