



Sandra Ruck

YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER FOR DIVISION 5

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Representing Newport, Rothwell, Scarborough and parts of Deception Bay, Kippa-Ring and Narangba.

Note from the Councillor

This will be the last newsletter for this term of Council and I appreciate all the support from our residents over the past four years to be able to achieve the results we have seen in Division 5. A number of projects have been delivered including the Boardman Road signalisation, the Deception Bay Community Hall, Deception Bay Skate Park, Deception Bay Environmental Hub as well as various road and park renewals and dog off-leash areas.

Council's delivery of its Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) gives more residents who live in Moreton Bay to have the ability to work in Moreton Bay, therefore strengthening the lifestyle that our families enjoy.

We have all seen the impact of the housing crisis has had on our community. The City of Moreton Bay's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan (HHAP) has shown our Council to be a Queensland leader by offering Council land to be used for affordable housing.

This has been made possible by the collaboration and support from all in the community and I value everyone's input to shape the future we want to see in Division 5 and across the City of Moreton Bay.

This term has shown that the City of Moreton Bay is innovative and an industry leader and has proven that a cohesive Council delivers more for our communities.

Sandra



Council General Meetings Explained

Aside the many other functions of our role, perhaps the most important role as a Councillor is the fortnightly General Meeting.

Alternating between Caboolture and Strathpine Council Chambers, these General Meetings often have an agenda of many hundreds of pages (I think the largest I have had so far was about 680 pages) split into items and officer's recommendations that in most cases become Council Resolutions.

To prepare for these General Meetings, we have five days to read the agenda, seek clarification, and formulate any questions or arguments to present during the meeting. In addition to the General Meeting, we also attend an average of 1-2 full days per week of Councillor Briefings where Council officers provide Councillors information on a variety of Council topics and strategies, where we have the opportunity to ask questions and express our views and concerns (although decisions can only be made during a General Meeting).

We work similar to a board of company directors. As Councillors of the City of Moreton Bay, we oversee an annual \$800 million budget made up of both capital expenses (new or upgraded transport, community buildings, stormwater and coastal infrastructure, upgrades to parks, playgrounds, sport and recreational infrastructure, environment and green infrastructure and projects) and operational expenses (waste disposal, maintenance of parks, open spaces, sporting and recreational facilities, roads and infrastructure assets, land use planning, infrastructure planning, environmental centres, libraries, galleries and museums, disaster management, staff wages).

Additionally, we oversee and maintain over \$8 billion worth of publicly owned assets, which grow at hundreds of millions of dollars worth of new assets annually.

To put into perspective how big Council is as a organisation, if you refer to the financial stats mentioned above and include revenue, asset portfolio value and the number of staff alone, by comparison it would put us up there with some of the largest private and publicly listed companies in Australia (if we were a company, rather than a local government).

We spend many days with the CEO and senior Council staff planning the annual budget and looking at the Council's strategic direction. Once prepared by the CEO, we resolve by way of a Special General Meeting of City of Moreton Bay to receive the Statement of Estimated Financial Position for the previous Financial Year and adopt the Annual Budget and Operational Plan for the upcoming financial year.

Since 2021, we have also been hosting up to 6 Community Council Meetings per year, allowing community members to attend in their backyard rather than attending Council Chambers in Caboolture or Strathpine (photo is at our Redcliffe Community General Meeting hosted at the Redcliffe Leagues Club).

For more information on Council meetings, please visit:
moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Council/Meetings



Voluntary Home Buy Back Program Update

Remembering the February 2022 severe weather event, the Voluntary Home Buy-Back program (VHBB) administered by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) considered homes that were the most severely impacted and at the greatest risk of future flooding.

As for all relevant Councils, eligible properties across the Moreton Bay region participating in the VHBB program become the property of Council, and the buildings removed/demolished in due course and the land re-zoned for non-liveable use. The deadline for rezoning is 30 June 2026 and the available zones under the Minister's Guidelines and Rules (MGR) include only the environmental management and conservation zone and recreation and open space zone.

In Division 5, all flood impacted properties that proceeded to contract under the VHBB program have now been acquired by Council. Except for three more recent acquisitions, all properties have been transformed to grassed open space following removal of house and associated infrastructure and site clean-up, levelling and turfing. Areas impacted in Division 5 include Major Street and Blue Pacific Road, Deception Bay and McGahey Street, Rothwell.

Fast Facts about Deception Bay

Median Age: 41.5 years **Current population:** 23,125

Family Composition:

39% couples with no children
34.9% couples with children
24.3% one-parent family

Dwellings:

9,372 current private dwellings
85% detached house
9.5% semi-detached (incl. row or terrace house, townhouse etc.)
3.8% apartments



The City of Moreton Bay SES Unit have assisted 907 people this year!

Sixty volunteers and family members gathered for this year's **City of Moreton Bay SES Unit Awards Ceremony** at the Deception Bay Community Hall. Congratulations to all the SES award recipients across the region. Of the 907 tasks actioned, 161 were a result of the severe weather event of January 04. In addition, 2,500 hours of training occurred and 81 new people have joined the unit. Well done and a huge thank you to all our SES members across the City of Moreton Bay region for your service to our community.

At the **State SES Awards Ceremony**, the *Deception Bay SES Group* was awarded the Commissioner's Cup for SES Group of the Year and *Moreton Bay Region SES* received a **Certificate for outstanding support to SES**.



City of Moreton Bay SES Unit Award Recipients at Deception Bay Community Hall



Moreton Bay Region SES Controller Sean Harrop with the Certificate for Outstanding Support to SES

Moreton Bay Wildlife Hospital is on its way!

At a recent Council meeting, Councillors endorsed the use of Council freehold land at 420 Old Gympie Road, Dakabin for the establishment of a wildlife hospital. Currently, there is no dedicated wildlife hospital in the 85 kilometres between the RSPCA wildlife hospital facility at Wacol and Australia Zoo at Beerwah, the two closest facilities in the Southeast Queensland Wildlife Hospital Network.

In response to the increasing number of wildlife requiring specialist treatment and the associated health and wellbeing impact on wildlife carers, a dedicated group of community members established the Moreton Bay Wildlife Hospital Foundation (MBWHF) in 2022. In February 2023, representatives from the MBWHF, City of Moreton Bay Council, State Government's Department of Environment and Science, and the Southeast Queensland Wildlife Hospital Network (including Australia Zoo, RSPCA and Currumbin Wildlife Hospital) met to discuss the requirement for a dedicated wildlife hospital in Moreton Bay, along with the required steps to establish this type of service. At the 22 November Council General Meeting, land was sanctioned for the wildlife hospital. It is estimated the facility could cost around \$10 million to construct, with an ongoing annual operational expense of up to \$5 million.

The MBWHF will be required to raise the required funds to establish and operate the wildlife hospital.

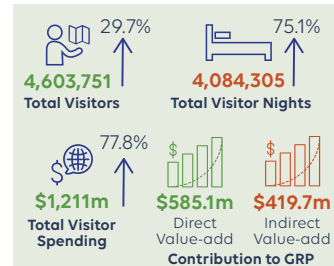


Economic Development

Tourism Industry Snapshot 2022/23

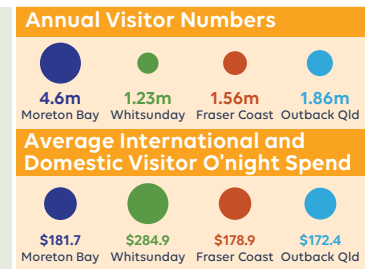
Headline Statistics¹

Tourism generated \$1,211m in direct spending and \$867.2m in supply chain spending - stimulating \$2.08b in economic activity.



Comparative Market Sizes¹

City of Moreton Bay visitor numbers equal the total combined visitor numbers for Fraser Coast + Outback Qld + Whitsunday.



Visitor Details¹



[^] Significant change in international visitor results stems from 2021/22 gaps in data collection as well as low visitor numbers.

Domestic Visitors^{*}



^{*} Year on year changes for daily spend and accommodation type considers domestic data only due to the significant absence of international visitor data for 2021/22 financial year.

Compiled by Economic Intelligence Branch, November 2023. DISCLAIMER: Every care has been taken by City of Moreton Bay to ensure the information attached is accurate and current. Notwithstanding this, Council makes no representation whatsoever regarding the accuracy, adequacy, suitability, completeness or reliability of the information and bears no responsibility for any mistakes, errors, or omissions. Accordingly, this information should not be relied upon for decision making purposes and independent professional advice should be obtained. To the full extent that it is able to do so, Council disclaims all liability (including liability in negligence) for losses and damages (including indirect or consequential loss and damage) caused by or arising from anyone using or relying on this information for any purpose whatsoever.

1. TRA various series including 2021/22 NVS and IVS, 2022/23 NVS and IVS