



Currimundi Beach foreshore.

Safeguarding property from beach erosion

The impact of a 2.16 m king tide on New Year's Day 2010 which caused significant erosion at Moffat Beach on the Sunshine Coast, has reinforced the need for Golder's continuing geotechnical investigations along Watson Street at the nearby Currimundi Beach, which began in mid 2009.

In response to concerns raised by residents about the potential for beach erosion to impact their properties, investigations were commissioned by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and began with a review of published maps, historical aerial images and previous Golder geotechnical reports on other sites in the local area.

Initial investigation revealed that the extent of vegetation had changed considerably over a number of years and that the sand dune east of Watson Street had experienced periods of advance and retreat.

Significant weather events appeared to coincide with the erosion, notably heavy seas in early 2009 and Cyclone Wanda in 1974.

The second stage of Golder's investigation involved a walk-over survey and a subsurface borehole investigation in November 2009.

Watson Street residents will welcome news that the investigations currently completed reveal that the sand dune on which their properties are located is supported by a layer of indurated sand, known locally as 'coffee rock'.

Many sand dunes in the Sunshine Coast region are supported by indurated sand, which essentially underpins the slope and adds stability.

If there is a relatively continuous layer of indurated sand of reasonable thickness under a sand dune, it is unlikely that there will be large-scale instability risks in the short-term.

At the Watson Street site the layer of indurated sand will also act as a 'buffer' if a significant weather event threatens dune stability in the future, creating sufficient time to protect residential properties.

Golder has recommended that further investigations be undertaken to confirm the extent of indurated sand and to assess the range of sand dune stabilisation measures that may be appropriate for the site, if and when needed.

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Coffee rock exposure at Currimundi Lake.



Celebrating 50 years of Golder

To collectively celebrate the milestone of serving clients' needs for 50 years, Golder is holding events and working on legacy projects across Australia and the globe.

Each Golder office is bringing their unique flavour to the three tiers of celebration, which focus on local communities, clients and employees.

"Each part of our 50th anniversary celebrations is about thanking individuals and organisations for their contribution to Golder's past, present and future success," said Golder's Sunshine and Fraser Coasts' Office Manager, Darryn Quinn.

The Maroochydore office is committed to understanding the specific needs of communities on the Sunshine and Fraser Coasts and will donate its professional services and time on a project that will have a lasting and positive impact for a local community.

To thank Golder's Sunshine and Fraser Coast clients for their ongoing support, they will be invited to a special event complete with fine food, entertainment and more.

All employee events in Australia are being held at the same time on May 14th 2010 to ensure a truly collective celebration. Each of the events will begin with a live pod-cast from Golder's Managing Director in Australia, Darren Watt.

Maroochydore's employee event will be about fun, frivolity and some great local food.

All of the team at Golder in Maroochydore are excited about serving the needs of clients and communities on the Sunshine and Fraser Coasts for the next 50 years.

Career milestones highlight a wealth of experience

Golder's 50th anniversary coincides with several long-service and career milestones for the Sunshine and Fraser Coast offices.

Across Australia, Golder is known for recruiting and developing excellent people throughout the course of their careers and the Sunshine and Fraser Coast offices are certainly living up to this reputation.



Peter Hooper
Lab Manager/ Geotechnician
- 25 years service



Geoff Hurley
Senior Engineering Geologist
and has become first ever Principal
(significant part-owner) for the
Maroochydore office
- 10 years service



Ashley Davey
Senior Geotechnical Engineer
and has become an Associate
(significant part-owner) for the
Maroochydore office
- 10 years service



Barbara Cummins
Office Administrator and
Integrated Management
System Coordinator
- 10 years service



Helen Pope
Administrator/Marketing
- 10 years service



Aldo Filippini
Geotechnician
- 5 years service



Cameron Kay
Environmental Scientist
- 5 years service



Daniel Joyce
Ecologist and Environmental
Scientist
- 5 years service

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The Golder Maroochydore office.

Golder wins in Queensland and nationally at 2010 BRW Client Choice Awards

Golder has confirmed its place as the most consistent and prolific winner at the BRW Client Choice awards, named Best Firm in Queensland and Best Consulting Engineering Firm nationally.



Golder's Managing Director, Darren Watt (right), accepting BRW award.

This year's accolades mean Golder has amassed 12 BRWs since the awards began five years ago, including five consecutive Best Consulting Engineering Firm awards for its category.

The state awards compare all professional services and this year's success for Golder in Brisbane follows previous wins for Golder in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. Golder in Perth was also a 2010 finalist in the category for Best Western Australian Firm.

"Our Sunshine and Fraser Coast teams work closely with the Brisbane office, so we are extremely proud of this year's success at the BRW awards," said Golder's Office Manager for the Sunshine and Fraser Coasts, Darryn Quinn.

"No other firm has won so often and with such consistency since the awards' inception in 2005," said BRW.

"The only other firm close to matching Golder's track record in the Client Choice Awards is big four accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers."

Golder's Managing Director, Darren Watt, attributes the firm's success at the awards to a commitment to technical excellence and a culture where employees take the time to truly understand clients.

"When we take on clients projects, we take on more than just a list of 'to do' items. We take on the responsibility of providing clients with the best possible solution we are capable of. We take pride in all our projects as if they were our own."

Watt also believes Golder's employee ownership model helps the firm to deliver valued client services.

"As an employee-owned company we have a very genuine care in our business and the relationships it is built on."

Golder's Brisbane Office Manager, Ian Lipton, believes technical excellence coupled with training and development has driven the firm's success in Queensland.

"We have worked very hard to maintain our focus on technical excellence and client service during a period of rapid growth in Queensland and we are thrilled that our clients recognise and value this. An important part of our success has been the development of our junior staff. They receive a lot of positive feedback from our clients and this will provide a terrific platform for the future."

Golder edged out Douglas Partners and MWH in the Best Consulting Engineering Firm category (\$50 to \$200 million). In the Best Firm in Queensland category, Golder was successful over Bendzulla Actuarial and Freehills.

Each year, Beaton Consulting undertakes the largest study of clients of professional services firms in the world, asking buyers of professional services to rate firms' performance across a broad range of attributes including service, value for money, commerciality and innovation over the past year.

In 2010, clients submitted more than 21,237 separate ratings of the firms they use.

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Setting the standard in drill rig safety, for employees and contractors

Industry expectations regarding drill rig safety have increased significantly in recent years and Golder is committed to being proactive regarding safety for both employees and contractors.

The latest initiative has seen the formation of a national drill rig safety committee which has developed safety standards for drill rig operators contracted to work on any Golder site in every state in Australia.

"We worked collaboratively with our contractors when developing the drill rig safety standards because we felt that was the best way to minimise the risks for both our employees and our contractors," said drill rig safety champion for Golder in Maroochydore, Ashley Davey.

The standards have a strong focus on minimising risks associated with hazardous drill rig operations including machine guarding, operator competency, licensing and equipment maintenance.

Golder sets out their expectations clearly within the standards, addressing the legislative requirements across all Australian states, whilst allowing some flexibility to account for different drill rig designs.

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Drill rig in operation.



Coal Seam Gas works in Gladstone region.

Golder assists rapid progress of billion dollar gas projects in Gladstone

Golder's ongoing geotechnical and environmental contributions to Coal Seam Gas (CSG) projects in Gladstone will help the region to export millions of metric tons of gas annually in under five years.

Thousands of jobs will be created in Gladstone as the region's extensive CSG supplies are converted into liquefied natural gas (LNG) to help satisfy the world's growing demand for natural gas, which is forecast to double by 2015.

Golder is working on behalf of several key CSG stakeholders in the region and is assisting the development of CSG fields, transportation pipelines and gas plant facilities.

"These are large and complex CSG projects and we have assembled outstanding teams from our offices around the globe to deliver the best results for our clients," said Golder's Gladstone Office Manager, Neil Early.

Central Queensland has delivered some challenging site conditions for these projects, from vast mud flats to narrow marine passages, Golder's teams even periodically use hovercraft in order to access bore holes.

"The marine tides and the recent heavy rains have made the region very difficult to work in. Safety is the top priority and projects are being managed according to our industry leading safety standards."

Partial replacement of coal-fired electricity with locally-sourced CSG is one way in which Australia can reduce carbon emissions, with a gas-fired power station emitting approximately half the greenhouse gases of a coal-fired station. CSG only contains around 3% carbon dioxide and this can be pumped back into the seam as part of the extraction process.

Treated surplus water from the CSG extraction process also has the potential to assist farmers in the upstream CSG region during periods of drought. Golder is providing CSG companies with advice on water management strategies, including the development of upstream pilot exploration and production wells.

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"Safety is always a priority on every Golder project. Our new drill rig safety standards reinforce and further develop our commitment to reducing risk," said Office Manager for Golder in Maroochydore, Darryn Quinn.

If a contractor cannot meet the requirements they must submit a risk assessment for review by one of Golder's drill rig safety champions.

Golder also places a strong emphasis on ensuring that all their employees are empowered to report any safety concerns and to escalate any issues or concerns as soon as possible.

All contractors for Golder will be required to meet the standards by mid 2010 and drill rig safety champions will regularly evaluate contractor operations, equipment and procedures on an ongoing basis.

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Drill rig in operation.

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Locally Speaking Sunshine and Fraser Coasts is a local publication for valued clients and employees of Golder Associates Pty Ltd. Contact Darryn Quinn on dquinn@golder.com.au or +61 7 5474 5900, if you have any questions or comments.

A new issue of Golder's innovation newsletter Technically Speaking is now available online at www.golder.com. This issue of Technically Speaking reports on how the long-term impacts of energy generation and consumption are of growing importance.

Editor: Daniel Garland. Designed and produced by Golder Associates. ©2010 Golder Associates Pty Ltd.