



MAYOR'S COLUMN #10

In September this year your Council decided to engage with the Clarence Community to prepare a Community Strategic Plan. The plan will pull together and provide practical linkages for the core strategic planning proposals that have received your endorsement and support during the life of this Council.

With your support, Council has achieved sign-off to a sustainability initiative, which is about ensuring that the thread of sustainability permeates Council's entire decision-making process. This is a matter of critical importance given what we now know about global warming and climate change.

You have also supported our economic development plan, a social plan, a cultural plan and a broad range of other forward planning initiatives. At the present time other strategies such as affordable housing, crime prevention and industrial lands are being examined by community with a view to Council sign-off in the near future.

The Community Strategic Plan is about pulling together all the good strategic work completed to date, so that the strategies will be integrated, relate and effectively 'talk' to each other. This will provide the best possible platform for the future direction of your Council and the Clarence Valley.

I know that some people have expressed concern about the time and money that Council has expended on forward planning. There is no doubt the most effective spending of rate dollars will be enhanced by properly planning our future path.

The Community Strategic Plan will seek to confirm your goals as to what our Clarence Valley community is and should become in future years. Community ownership of this overarching plan is an important objective of your Council. What you aspire to and what the Council should strive for in the future should ultimately be the clear direction of the Community Strategic Plan. I encourage your full participation in this next strategic planning phase.

Ian Tiley
Mayor
15 October 2007

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