

Section: MOTION ON NOTICE 24 February 2009

Item: 10.002/09 CLARENCE VALLEY CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY

I propose that the following report and notice of motion be adopted by Council.

PROPOSED MOTION

1. That Council establish a Clarence Valley Climate Advisory Community Committee.
2. That the Committee be a primary source of community advice and awareness raising regarding the planning and implementation of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, within the framework of ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Program.
3. That the committee role include assisting Council to implement Climate Change response actions through assisting management of specific projects involving the community.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION - 10.002/09

(Crs Dinham/Toms)

That: the General Manager bring back a report regarding the following:

1. **Council establish a Clarence Valley Climate Advisory Community Committee.**
2. **The Committee be a primary source of community advice and awareness raising regarding the planning and implementation of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, within the framework of ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Program.**
3. **The committee role include assisting Council to implement Climate Change response actions through assisting management of specific projects involving the community.**

Voting recorded as follows:

For: Councillors Williamson, Comben, Dinham, Howe, Hughes, McKenna, Simmons, Tiley, Toms

Against: Nil

BACKGROUND

As Council is aware in 2008 the former Clarence Valley Council joined the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Program. Council is currently addressing milestone 2 of that program.

Milestone 3 of the CCP Program entails endorsement of a Local Action Plan that outlines

how Council will achieve the goals that it has set to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It is Council's blueprint of effective and practical measures to reduce the GHG

emissions generated within council and importantly also, in the community.

Milestone 4 involves the implementation of actions from the Milestone 3 Local Action Plan. On completion, council should be able to demonstrate tangible greenhouse gas reductions. Milestone 4 is the key to the success of the CCP Program as it is the effective implementation of measures that results in emission reductions.

The success of participation in the CCP Program (i.e. the effectiveness of Milestone 4) is

naturally contingent on community support and involvement in development and implementation of the Local Action Plan. By acting cooperatively with the Clarence community, a procedure endorsed in Council's Sustainability Initiative, Council is able to

initiate and accelerate the adoption of many more sustainable practices than it could if

acting alone.

Council probably currently lacks the staff resources to effectively undertake the necessary public awareness campaign to promote sustainability. It also may lack all the resources to implement the practical measures that may be included in the Local Action Plan. A community-based advisory committee, chaired by a Councillor and working with Council staff, would greatly assist Council in involving the community in the development and implementation of the Local Action Plan. Membership of this committee should include wide Clarence Valley representation including the two local community climate action organisations (Yamba CAN and the Grafton Branch of Climate Change Australia), indigenous, business and other stakeholder groups. I would be willing to be the Councillor representative if that was acceptable to council.

ISSUES

The success of the CCP Program is ultimately contingent on community support and involvement in the implementation of the project. Council lacks the resources to do this effectively in the absence of a community-based advisory committee. There will obviously be other issues and roles to be determined and in that respect the advice and input by the General Manager would be necessary.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Proposals for Council involvement referred to above would have low level cost implications which could be met from the accumulation in Council's Waste Fund.
Councillor Ian Tiley

Date: 26th January 2009