

Section: MOTION ON NOTICE 21 April 2009

Item: 10.021/09 YOUTH MENTORING BY CLARENCE VALLEY COUNCIL

SUMMARY:

I request that the following report and notice of motion be submitted to Council.

PROPOSED MOTION:

That Clarence Valley Council institute a Youth Mentor Program to operate in similar manner to the Indigenous mentor program and the former Maclean Shire program, with councillors acting as mentors and seeking participation by young Clarence Valley citizens.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION - 10.021/09

(Crs Tiley/Hughes)

That:

Clarence Valley Council institute a Youth Mentor Program to operate in similar manner to the Indigenous mentor program and the former Maclean Shire program, with Councillors acting as mentors and seeking participation by young Clarence Valley citizens.

That a further report be provided to Council on how the program will be implemented.

Voting recorded as follows:

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

Against: Nil

BACKGROUND:

The former Maclean Shire undertook a youth mentoring program in the late 1990s the aim of which was to give young people the opportunity over a six month period to learn about local government and council processes and also to assist them to consider running for a position as a councillor. Lachlan McSeverny of Yamba engaged in the program and nominated for Council at the year 2000 election. The youth mentoring program operated in similar fashion to the Indigenous mentor program undertaken in 2008 by Mr Maurie Maher.

ISSUES:

Providing young people in the Clarence Valley with the opportunity to learn about civics,

local government and how their council operates would be a very worthwhile council program and may also encourage young persons to give consideration to running for public office.

The new Australian Local Government Association President is 28 years of age and a

real role model for younger Australians. Elected representative succession planning and

obtaining of youth perspectives in local government would be other objectives of such a program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Minimal costs only would be incurred in provision of business papers and sustenance.

Councillor Ian Tiley

Date: 6 April 2009