

Mayoral Speeches

Mayor: Ian Tiley
General Manager: Stuart McPherson

LOCKED BAG 23 GRAFTON NSW 2460
Telephone: (02) 6643 0200
Fax: (02) 6642 7647

Launch Clarence Climate Challenge 12th May 2007

Firstly I wish to thank the three indigenous elder ladies for their welcome to country. May I acknowledge too the Gumbadgir, Bungelung and Yaegl people s the traditional custodians of these lands.

I welcome you all to this launch of the Clarence Community Climate Challenge, a great local initiative which is about showing people of our Valley how we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save money at household level. I have signed up and look forward to being a Climate Challenge participant over the coming months

On your behalf I acknowledge and sincerely thank the Nature Conservation Council of NSW which is co-ordinating the event with NSW government funding.

Clarence Valley is one of three chosen regional centres in NSW for the Challenge and we have the distinction of being the first Climate Challenge to be launched in this State.

Originally the Challenge was to be only for Grafton city but Council lobbied for it to extend to the whole Valley given that we are one community.

I convey special thanks to all event sponsors and supporters including; Radio 2GF and 104.7FM, Daily Examiner, Clarence Valley Review, Country Energy and the Anglican Church.

Clarence Valley Council is also heavily involved. Council has already flagged the need to act sustainably through our sustainability Framework, adopted in 2006.

Climate Change is the biggest issue of our time. It is so important that we realise this and work together to ensure that those that follow us will have enjoyment of a similar lifestyle and environment to that we now enjoy.

The Challenge will be a great way to raise awareness in the Clarence Community about how each person can make a difference. There is something here for every lifestyle such as simply changing light bulbs, reducing water consumption, switching to accredited Green Power or maybe car pooling with the neighbours.

We will have the opportunity through the Challenge to develop creative initiatives to highlight solutions to Climate Change at our local level.

I encourage all our citizens to be involved, to take up the Climate Challenge be they community groups, workplaces, schools, local businesses, sporting teams, local media, or the arts community.

Let's demonstrate the great community spirit that's in the Clarence Valley. My central message today is: - "Young and old get involved". Let us make a difference. We are all part of the problem of Climate Change. Let us also be part of the solution.

With much pleasure I now launch the Clarence community Climate Challenge.

Ian Tiley
Mayor Clarence Valley Council
12th May 2007