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MEDIA RELEASE

Water and IT put CVC in national spotlight

Clarence Valley Council has won two major national awards for its excellence in the fields of water supply and information technology.

The awards, announced annually by the federal Department of Territories and Regional Services, acknowledge outstanding achievements by local government across the nation.

CVC's business unit, North Coast Water, has won the Asset Management category for its work in designing a strategic policy to protect the Nymboida and Orara Rivers and to safeguard long-term water supply security.

Clarence Valley Council mayor Ian Tiley applauded the award, saying the entry from North Coast Water reflected what Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour Councils, in partnership with the State Government, had achieved.

"With the Regional Water Supply Project entering such a critical phase, I am delighted that it has been successful in winning this major category in a prestigious national award," the mayor said.

Clarence Valley Council's second big award came from its work in developing information technology to keep pace with the challenges following amalgamation, and to bringing the organisation together as a single entity. The organisation has more than 400 personal computers, 40 servers, hundreds of printers and other devices in the new council network.

Council's General Manager, Stuart McPherson said that the process of standardising systems and providing access to all sites was one that few other councils had faced.

Mr McPherson said. "My congratulations go to the staff involved in both projects including North Coast Water Executive Manager, Ian Preston, and his team and Director Corporate Services, Ross Bryant, along with IT Manager, Tim Howarth, and the IT team. The projects are just two examples of innovative and trend-setting programs being introduced and developed by CVC staff to improve services to the residents of the valley."

Council representatives will travel to Canberra on September 28 to compete against other category winners for the overall Local Government National Awards for 2006.

Release ends.

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