



Media release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Council aims to be greenhouse gas emission free

THE Clarence Valley Council has set a target to cut its net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050.

The first step in reaching that target will be to cut greenhouse gas emissions (excluding landfill emissions) to 40% below 2016/17 levels by 2030.

It has also adopted a target of supplying half of its own electricity demand from renewable energy sources by 2030, with the long-term goal to secure all electricity from renewable energy.

Council's waste and sustainability coordinator, Ken Wilson, said council had engaged consultants, 100% Renewable, to help with the development of renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets in line with council's climate change policy.

"Their report shows council is performing well, with about 8.3% of the energy used by council coming from renewable energy – primarily rooftop solar," he said.

"Council currently has 646.3kw of PV Solar generating capacity.

"To achieve the short-term target the report assessed 47 initiatives involving solar photovoltaic and battery storage, street and park lighting, and energy efficiency costing in the order of \$5,764,794. Council plans to implement these measures over five years, which should help council meet its targets and achieve financial savings well before 2030.

"These initiatives have a payback of between four and eight years. Initiatives involving battery storage are expected to become more cost effective over the next few years, which will improve the payback period.

"Anticipated savings will be reflected in facility operating costs and will be ongoing. The average pay back period is 6.5 years.

"These projects do not include a current proposal under investigation to develop a mini-hydro system at the Rushforth Road reservoir.

"The recommended targets are considered achievable and cost-effective."

Release ends.

For media inquiries contact Clarence Valley Council communications coordinator, David Bancroft, on 6643 0230 or 0429 104 118.