



# Media release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Clarence looks to join Coffs and Nambucca councils in joint organisation**

THE Clarence Valley Council has resolved to join the Coffs Harbour City and Nambucca Shire councils in the formation of a joint organisation, pending agreement from Coffs Harbour.

At an extraordinary council meeting in Grafton yesterday, Clarence Valley Council voted unanimously to join its neighbours Coffs Harbour and Nambucca in a joint organisation, and to invite the Bellingen Shire Council to be a fourth member should they get approval to withdraw from the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation.

But those moves will hinge on what Coffs Harbour decides the make-up of the joint organisation should be. It is scheduled to decide on its preferred position on Thursday.

If Coffs Harbour opts for a different model, the Clarence Valley Council has resolved to advise the Minister for Local Government it has no interest in joining the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation.

Clarence Valley Council will also consider associate membership of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation, dependent on cost and benefits.

In his report to the meeting yesterday, Clarence Valley Council general manager, Ashley Lindsay, said the council had previously resolved to become a member of a joint organisation, but because of some background issues, these had not resulted in proclamations by the minister.

He said there were demonstrated benefits in closer cooperation with neighbouring councils.

“Council has a regional library agreement in place with Bellingen Shire (and previously with Nambucca Shire as well) and more recently the “Apples with Apples” asset management project with MIDROC councils was beneficial for council,” he said.

He said that once a final position was determined, council would write to the Deputy Premier, John Barilaro, and the Minister for Local Government, Gabrielle Upton, seeking approval to form a joint organisation.

He said the NSW Government had allocated \$3.3m in seed funding to help joint organisations with their establishment costs but it appeared to have been already allocated to the 11 joint organisations that were proclaimed by the NSW Governor.

Release ends.

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