



Speech by

Dr LESLEY CLARK

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

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QUEENSLAND FILM AND TELEVISION INDUSTRY

Dr CLARK (Barron River—ALP) (10.25 a.m.): Yesterday in this House the Premier announced that Coote/Hayes Productions has chosen to locate TV productions worth at least \$100m here in Queensland, generating about 2,000 jobs. The Premier confirmed our Government's strong support for the film and TV industry, which has seen films with production budgets totalling \$889m shot in Queensland since 1992. The latest and biggest production so far, *The Thin Red Line*, with a budget of \$65m, was shot primarily in the Cairns region.

I have great faith in the emerging film and TV industry in far-north Queensland, as do members of the Far North Queensland Film and Television Association. The association is working hard to attract more film companies to our part of the world, capitalising on our fantastic varied locations and peoples to create jobs and diversify the local economy. In fact, reviewers of *The Thin Red Line* have been quick to point out that the real stars of the show may in fact be the varied, beautiful and unique locations. Owen Gleiberman, of *Entertainment Weekly*, wrote—

"The expert use of stunning locations made the film a poetic and philosophical look at an island paradise plunged into war."

To capitalise on our natural assets, the association has produced a Film and Television Location Directory for the Cairns region in CD-ROM format, with financial assistance from all three levels of Government. The CD was launched officially by Deputy Premier Jim Elder in Cairns last week. The directory is the culmination of almost two years of planning and development, which involved photographing and surveying all areas between Cooktown and Cardwell. The CD contains virtual reality 360 degree images of locations, panoramic photography, sound files, and graphical images. There are over 3,000 different images in all, supported by a database of statistics about each location.

I congratulate president Tony Gordon and association members on their achievement. It is with great pleasure that I table a copy of the CD for members to explore the wonders of far-north Queensland from the comfort of their offices and hopefully to use it to promote our film industry whenever they have the opportunity. I had thought that this would be the first CD to be tabled in the Queensland Parliament but, as I discovered yesterday, the Premier inadvertently beat me to it when he tabled an information kit on the new EPA, which contained a CD. The Table Office has expressed some concern about this movement into the information technology age, but I have no doubt that, with your continuing support, Mr Speaker, it will rise to the challenge.

Time expired.
