



Speech by

**ROSA LEE LONG**

**MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS**

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**MILLAA MILLAA**

**Ms LEE LONG** (Tablelands—ONP) (10.09 p.m.): Millaa Millaa is an Aboriginal word meaning 'many waters'. In 1909 only Christie Palmerston and surveyors Douglas and Oswald had penetrated the rainforest in the Millaa Millaa area. Settlers then walked in from Atherton with not much more than brush hooks and axes to clear the land for dairying. Once the railway reached Millaa Millaa, the town developed into a beef and dairy community and timber from the local mill could be transported to the coast.

Millaa Millaa is only small in population with approximately 400 residents but is a popular destination for tourists. The waterfall circuit is high on the list of priorities for tourists, both international and from within Australia. Local tourist information centres are constantly asked for directions to the waterfalls in the Atherton Tableland area. There are six waterfalls within 15 kilometres of Millaa Millaa with scenic walks connecting these impressive waterfalls and lookouts.

The cliff formation of the Millaa Millaa Falls is the result of three distinct lava flows and features basalt columns due to the slow cooling of the bottom lava flow. In 1970 and before its closure three years later, the Millaa Millaa Butter Factory held the record for the longest milk run in the world, supplying Darwin with fresh milk. The milk was packed in sachets in Innisfail and the trip by truck took 48 hours. Dairying was once the main agricultural industry in this district, but it has seen a downturn since deregulation.

One recently established business in the Millaa Millaa area has been the Mungalli Creek Dairy. This is a biodynamic farm situated about 10 kilometres from the town. Biodynamic farming is an enhanced organic method. These farmers started off with an idea of producing biodynamic products and have built up an industry, which is growing rapidly. Biodynamic foods and organic foods are produced without the use of artificial fertilisers or synthetic chemicals. No herbicides, pesticides or antibiotics are used in the farming process. Organic foods are not only healthier; they also taste better. This is due in no small part to the fact that they are produced in smaller quantities—

Time expired.

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