



Speech by

**Rosa Lee Long**

**MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS**

Hansard Thursday, 8 February 2007

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## **DISSOLUTION OF JOHNSTONE SHIRE COUNCIL**

**Ms LEE LONG** (Tablelands—ONP) (2.52 pm): I too would like to say a few words on this matter. I concur with the member for Warrego; I am very disappointed to hear about this decision, though I suppose I am not entirely surprised. I have got to know most of the members of the council over the last six years, and on an individual basis they are all lovely people. It is just a shame that when they got into council they could not do council business and work out their differences in some way. They battled through the difficult times after Cyclone Larry, and there have been difficult times getting all those people back on track, but it has happened. I think they should be congratulated for that side of things, anyway.

The Beattie government and the Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport have given the council every opportunity to rectify the situation. They were given a long time to show that they can work together and work out their differences, but it just has not happened. This is a lesson for all councils that they need to put their personalities aside for the good of their own constituents and the good of their own area. I also think this proves that four-year terms can be a long time if you have a bad government. Now that Mr Webb has been appointed, he will take control and manage the council in the interim. I am sure he will do a good job and take it forward.

Like parliamentarians, councillors are voted in by the people and the people would like them to finish their term. Then, at the end of the term, if the people do not like them, they would like to be the ones who vote them out. This case is an extreme example. They were given every opportunity and I think the minister has made the right decision.