



Speech by

**Rosa Lee Long**

**MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS**

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2007

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## **KAREEYA HYDRO-ELECTRICITY SCHEME**

**Ms LEE LONG** (Tablelands—ONP) (11.34 am): Last month I was pleased to attend the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the official opening of the Kareeya hydro-electricity scheme which was held at the site west of Tully. This wonderfully successful hydro scheme opened on 21 September 1957. It has run very efficiently since then and, into the bargain, it is clean and green. The site of the Kareeya hydro station is at the base of the Great Dividing Range, almost directly below the Koombooloomba Dam, which is located about 40 kilometres from Ravenshoe in my electorate. Koombooloomba Dam was built in conjunction with the Kareeya hydro facility to store and regulate the supply of water to the scheme. This project was envisaged by the then Labor Party in the early 1920s when it looked to the future, saw a need and, importantly, saw the potential in the wettest part of Australia and was proactive in putting this hydro scheme into place.

In a country as dry as Australia it is imperative that we use our natural assets, and especially those that we have in far-north Queensland, to create clean power as opposed to CO<sub>2</sub> climate-changing coal, which, if you can believe many of our learned scientists, will kill the planet and civilisation within 50 years. Yet I certainly do not hear any of the extreme greens such as the Aila Ketos of the world, members of the conservation society, the Wilderness Society, or any of the many other green groups railing against the continual opening up of coalmines to fire our power stations to pollute not only this country but the earth as a whole. Is it any wonder then that many people are still confused about the issue of climate change.

Certainly, clean coal is a long way off. It is like finding a cure for cancer. Some even say that there is no such thing as clean coal. Kareeya and Koombooloomba now produce and supply some 84 megawatts of clean, renewable power to the region. This Bligh government needs to follow the example of its forebears and build the Tully Millstream hydro-electric scheme, which can deliver a massive 600 megawatts on the same basis.