



Speech by

**Andrew Cripps**

**MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK**

Hansard Tuesday, 26 February 2008

---

## **THURINGOWA CITY COUNCIL**

**Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—NPA) (9.46 pm): At midnight on 15 March 2008 the Thuringowa City Council will cease to exist following the decision by the state government to impose a forced amalgamation on the Thuringowa City Council and the Townsville City Council to form the new Townsville City Council. Tonight I would like to place on the record a brief history of the local government authorities that have served the Thuringowa area.

Under the Divisional Board Acts 1879, the Thuringowa Divisional Board was formed. It covered an area along the coast from the mouth of the Burdekin River in the south to Crystal Creek in the north. At the time the municipality of Townsville was located within this area and consisted of a small area around the foot of Castle Hill. Over the last 129 years numerous boundary changes have seen Thuringowa change considerably, with the current boundaries roughly covering the western third of the divisional board's original area.

The first chairman of the Thuringowa Divisional Board was William Alpin, who served as chairman from 1880 to 1881. Under the 1902 Local Authorities Act, divisional boards were renamed shire councils. Consequently, in 1903 the Thuringowa Divisional Board became the Thuringowa Shire Council. The first chairman of the Thuringowa Shire Council was Joseph Hodel, who served as chairman between 1903 and 1909, between 1912 and 1913, and 1915. Hodel had previously served as the chairman of the Thuringowa Divisional Board between 1890 and 1897.

In 1918, the Queensland government transferred most of the urban area of Thuringowa to Townsville. The population of Thuringowa dropped to 2,500 following the loss of a number of suburbs to the Townsville local government area. That made Thuringowa Shire Council a predominantly rural shire covering the localities of Giru, Woodstock, Mutarnee, Paluma and Rollingstone. The Thuringowa Shire Council was notable for its nomination of one of the first women to serve on a local government authority in Queensland when Isabella Fitzpatrick, a businesswoman and community leader from Rollingstone, was nominated to fill a vacancy on the council in 1924.

The Thuringowa district played an important role during World War II, with many military personnel staging camps, air support depots and supply depots being established in the area to support the war effort. In the period since the 1960s, the Thuringowa area has expanded significantly, in terms of both residential and industrial growth. In 1979, the Thuringowa Shire Council opened new council chambers on Thuringowa Drive and in 1986 the Thuringowa local government area was declared a city.

Over the last two decades, Thuringowa city has continued to grow strongly. Within the council area there is a diverse mix of agricultural enterprises, heavy and light industry as well as substantial residential development in the northern beaches area of the city, a large area of which is in the Hinchinbrook electorate, which I am proud to represent in this place. Les Tyrell has served as mayor of the Thuringowa City Council since 1991, and he will be the last mayor of Thuringowa when the council ceases to exist at midnight on 15 March 2008.