Koombooloomba Hydro

About the power station
Koombooloomba Hydro is situated behind the wall of the Koombooloomba Dam, south west of Ravenshoe on the Atherton Tablelands in Far North Queensland. It operates by capturing energy from existing water releases required for the operation of Kareeya Hydro.

Commissioned in 1999, the 7.3 megawatt (MW) power station was constructed in line with the principles of environmentally sustainable development.

Electricity produced is transported to the Kareeya Hydro switchyard 13 km away, before being fed into the Queensland power grid.

Water supply
The catchment area of the Tully River spans approximately 260 square kilometres across one of Australia’s wettest regions.

Some of this rainfall finds its way to Koombooloomba Dam, which has a standard capacity of 180,000 megalitres and can handle an extra 25,000 megalitres using a water-inflated rubberised tube, which is fitted along the crest of the spillway.

Water flowing down the Tully River, as it makes its way from the Atherton Tablelands to the ocean, is therefore used twice; first at Koombooloomba Hydro and then at the 88 MW Kareeya Hydro to generate power.

Environment
Hydro-electric generation - using the energy of moving water to drive generators - is one of the cleanest and most efficient methods of producing electricity from a natural source.

During operation, the Koombooloomba Hydro does not emit any greenhouse gases and it is an accredited green generator.

All the water it uses for generation flows into the Tully River in exactly the same pristine condition in which it entered the power station.

Koombooloomba Hydro is in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and must meet strict environmental standards.

Community
Stanwell takes an active role in the local community, supporting initiatives that promote regional development and education.