



Speech by

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STATE MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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GREENBANK RSL CLUB

Mr MICKEL (Logan—ALP) (6.47 p.m.): I am delighted to inform the House that the Greenbank RSL club, which is located in the heart of the Logan electorate, won the Best Community Service by a Licensed Club award at the Clubs Queensland Awards function last weekend. The award will probably come as no surprise to honourable members who were in the last parliament, as I spoke in detail about the outstanding contribution by the Greenbank RSL club to the community when I took part in the debate on changes to the laws governing the gaming machine industry.

I am proud to be associated with the Greenbank RSL club and I am proud of its extensive, even unique, contribution to our community. Apart from being the largest employer in my electorate employing several hundred people, the club is easily the largest contributor to charitable community and sporting organisations and causes in West Logan and beyond. Over the past year, the club has directly contributed more than \$650,000 to community services, schools, charities and sporting groups in the West Logan area. Apart from direct cash contributions, many groups have benefited from the free use of the club's meetings rooms and non-cash support for fundraising and other functions. My community simply could not do without the contribution that the club makes to our schools, our sporting clubs, and our charitable and service groups. The continued success of the club, even in tough trading conditions, is a testament to the confidence it enjoys in the community.

The club is also a trailblazer in one of the most important areas of all in our society today: the training of young men and women. Apart from offering comprehensive training for its own employees, the club has entered into a partnership with Logan TAFE to establish a satellite campus next to the club on property owned by the club. Working with Bremer TAFE and Club Training Queensland, the Greenbank RSL Club and Logan TAFE are conducting an entry level hospitality club training program for young people in our community. So far, more than 36 students have graduated with level 2 certificates in hospitality and Greenbank has backed up its contribution by providing employment to 16 of those graduates. The club also employs 31 apprentices at any one time, which is a tremendous contribution to employment and training for our young people.

I know that there are concerns in the community about the social impact of gaming machines, but the Greenbank RSL club has led the way in addressing those concerns by adopting a responsible gaming policy and offering a range of alternatives to gaming for its members. One example is the very frequent bus trips and excursions that the club makes available for senior citizens. Another is its healthy social events program for young people. The club also underpins the tremendous work being done by the returned servicemen's clubs for ex-servicemen and women and their families in the Logan area and beyond. I am sure that the House joins with me in congratulating the club on its tremendous success.
