



Speech by

Hon. S. ROBERTSON

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Hansard 1 August 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

2001 Queensland Landcare Awards

Hon. S. ROBERTSON (Stretton—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines) (10.05 a.m.), by leave: Landcare and other community-based groups are the backbone of natural resource management across Queensland. Those groups comprise ordinary Queenslanders who voluntarily and willingly give of their time, energy and expertise to protect and sustain our environment. They are our front-line troops in the fight against land degradation. Queensland is fortunate to have this army of Landcare volunteers across the state who work tirelessly to tackle important environmental issues such as salinity, land degradation, water quality, erosion and nature conservation.

Last week I had the pleasure of officiating in Goondiwindi at the presentation of the 2001 Queensland Landcare Awards. Landcare as an ethic has thrived over the last 15 years. These annual awards acknowledge the work being done by ordinary Queenslanders to bring about a sustainable future for our state's natural resources. They provide an opportunity for us to congratulate some of the champions of our environment, whether they are school children, businesses, industry or community groups and they demonstrate the commitment that our Australian corporate sector makes towards natural resource management. Partnerships between Australia's corporate sector, government and the community are crucial to ensuring our future sustainability.

The theme of this year's Landcare awards was 'the Power of One' in recognition of the enormous voluntary work done by members of the 300 Landcare and catchment groups across the state. In this, the International Year of the Volunteer, the awards prove that everyone can make a difference.

I want to thank the Queensland Landcare and Catchment Management Council, the Border Rivers Catchment Management Association, and the people of Goondiwindi for hosting this year's Landcare awards. To all the winners, congratulations on your contribution to natural resource management in Queensland and good luck at the National Landcare Awards in Canberra next March.
