Speech by

STEVEN RODGERS

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Hansard 5 April 2001

WORLD SOLAR CAR CHALLENGE

Mr RODGERS (Burdekin—ALP) (7.11 p.m.): Tonight I rise to speak about a challenge that the Burdekin Catholic High School in my electorate has taken on. I refer to the world solar car challenge. Solar power is the future. These young people aged between 15 and 16 will compete in this challenge. They are building their own vehicle, which they have already started. They have asked for support from the government to help do this, and that assistance has come from the environment department. This school is showing initiative and foresight for the young people of the future, not just for the Burdekin electorate but all over Australia. There are only 50 entrants in the challenge. I have been informed that two schools from Queensland are taking part. One of those schools is the Burdekin Catholic High School. I am proud to support it in its challenge.

The challenge is a 3,000 kilometre journey from Darwin to Adelaide. It will be an adventure for these young people which they will never forget. They are putting everything they have into this challenge and are asking for support from the Queensland public and this parliament. I believe this is a very worthwhile cause and that we as members of this parliament should support anything which looks to future sources of power, whether it is solar or anything else. These children, their teachers and parents have started on one of the best expeditions of their lives. Their actions are a credit to the people of the Burdekin community. It shows the strength and foresight this community has in supporting these young people to enter this challenge. I fully support their challenge. I will do whatever I can to help them achieve maximum benefit from this challenge. I call on the people of Queensland to support not just this school but any school or Queensland entrant to compete in this event. It is a worldwide challenge. It is a credit to all those who enter it and, as I said, it is a worthwhile cause.

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