



Speech by

Ronan Lee

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY

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ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS AUSTRALIA

Mr LEE (Indooroopilly—ALP) (9.50 pm): Engineers Without Borders Australia works with disadvantaged communities to improve their quality of life through education and the implementation of sustainable engineering projects. Through the process of helping people in need, our community can become more socially aware and responsible. We can improve ourselves, we can inspire others to action and we can further the ultimate goal of sustainable development.

EWB's vision is of a world where every individual and community has adequate access to the resources, knowledge and technology necessary to meet their self-identified human needs. We have the technology that can treat water to make it potable, manage waste so that it does not pollute, generate renewable energy and design processes that can heal our earth. Our task is to make sure that these technologies are accessible to all.

Fundamental to this vision is our conviction that each individual has the ability and the responsibility to make a positive impact in the world. Engineers Without Borders works in partnership with developing communities, both within Australia and overseas, assisting them to gain access to the knowledge, resources and appropriate technologies they need to improve their livelihood. Engineers Without Borders focuses on developing the capacity of the local technical sector through small-scale grassroots engineering programs to ensure that innovative, appropriate, sustainable solutions to issues that impede development are locally generated and driven.

Last Friday, I was delighted to represent Premier Anna Bligh at the Engineers Without Borders Queensland gala dinner to raise funds for EWB projects in Nepal. I was also delighted that a sponsor for Friday's dinner was the Queensland Department of Main Roads. Main Roads is proud of the skills of its engineers, especially its young engineers, and there was a wonderful Main Roads presence at the dinner. It is great to see Main Roads strongly supporting this worthwhile organisation.

I would like to especially commend metropolitan district director Eddie Peters for his attendance with his team at this significant event. Also worthy of special mention is Sophie Perisce who worked very hard to ensure the involvement of Main Roads with this organisation. I am looking forward to working with Main Roads staff like Sophie and also Alexandra Smith and Jon Oxford to increase the involvement of Main Roads with Engineers Without Borders. I am full of praise for EWB and the great work it does. I will be working hard to ensure that Main Roads and other Queensland organisations that employ large numbers of engineers continue to be involved with, and increase their involvement with, Engineers Without Borders.