



30 June 2009

### **Practical training for Rockhampton's future engineers**

Stanwell Corporation Limited (Stanwell) is helping to develop aspiring engineers through its sponsorship of the Engineering Link Project, which is being held at the Central Queensland University this week, from 30 June to 2 July.

The three day course provides the opportunity for local high school students, from Grades 11 and 12, to apply their maths and science learnings to practical engineering projects, in collaboration with engineers from different disciplines.

Stanwell Power Station Manager Graham Dawson said the Engineering Link Project was a valuable way for students to experience the world of engineering.

"One of the main ways we can ensure a skilled workforce for the future is to attract young people to the professions where we are recognising skills shortages or potential shortages," Mr Dawson said.

"Engineers and engineering-related professions are essential, not only for the electricity industry, but also in many other related infrastructure industries."

Mr Dawson said Stanwell's social investment strategy focused on making contributions to initiatives that supported young people and education, particularly in regions where Stanwell has operations.

"The high school students who are prepared to give up their school holidays to undertake these courses are already showing a commitment to developing new skills for their future.

"Stanwell has sponsored the Engineering Link Project annually since it was introduced to Rockhampton in 2001. It is one way we can help the young people of Central Queensland obtain some hands-on engineering experience and to understand how their studies of mathematics and science have a place in the workforce."

The Engineering Link Project is an initiative of the Engineering Link Group, a not for profit organisation established to facilitate the introduction of secondary school students to the discipline of engineering.

Engineering Link Group's Director Paul Richards said the Engineering Link Project was founded on two basic principles: reversing the decline in the uptake of science and maths

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subjects by high school students; and developing the knowledge high school students have of the engineering field.

“By providing students with an opportunity to solve real engineering problems and gain insight into the operations of practising engineers, we hope to increase the number of students taking up engineering as a career,” Mr Richards said.

“The major goal of the Engineering Link Group is that students become engineers, not just watch engineers.

“With the support of industry partners such as Stanwell, we hope to continue to develop Australia’s next generation of engineers and build on the solid industry partnerships that have already been established.”

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Photographs available on request.

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