

The Sydney Morning Herald

SE News
HD Ex-treasurer working for Chinese company that was major donor
BY Sean Nicholls, Kate McClymont
WC 518 words
PD 4 February 2014
SN The Sydney Morning Herald
SC SMHH
ED First
PG 7
LA English
CY © 2014 Copyright John Fairfax Holdings Limited.
LP

Overseas player Liberal and Labor parties benefited - ELECTORAL FUNDING

A Chinese-based property company that hired former NSW treasurer Eric Roozendaal as its vice-chairman after he quit politics was among the largest donors to the NSW Labor and Liberal parties last financial year.

TD

According to election funding returns published by the Australian Electoral Commission on Monday, YuHu Group (Australia) donated \$200,000 to the NSW branch of the ALP during during 2012-13, including \$100,000 in June last year. It also donated \$100,000 to the NSW Liberals during the period.

YuHu chairman Huang Changren donated a further \$150,000 to the NSW ALP in November 2012 and \$40,000 to the NSW branch of the Liberal party during the financial year, the records show.

Last October a YuHu Group subsidiary, YuHu Property, purchased the Eastwood Shopping Centre complex and has development approval for a \$200 million redevelopment, according to its website.

"The company will invest an estimated \$200 million to redevelop Eastwood Shopping Centre and adjoining properties into a mixed-use site in the future," it says.

"The redevelopment of Eastwood Town Centre will be a major development project determined by the local council of the city of Ryde and supported by the NSW state government."

However, the general manager of YuHu Group (Australia), Holly Huang, said the donations were unrelated to the planned development as approval had been given prior to the company's purchase of the shopping centre.

Ms Huang said after the company entered Australia in May 2013 "a lot of people approached us".

"A lot of Chinese community friends introduced us to the parties to understand how the system runs in Australia," she said.

Ms Huang said she could not comment on Mr Huang's personal donations as she only spoke for the company.

YuHu's website features pictures of Mr Huang and politicians including former prime ministers Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard and former treasurer Chris Bowen.

Mr Roozendaal, a former NSW treasurer who earned a reputation as a prodigious fundraiser while general secretary of the NSW ALP, quit the NSW Parliament in May last year. Two months earlier, in March, he had travelled to China at the invitation of Mr Huang to tour some of YuHu's projects.

"After the inspection, Eric expressed that he would promote international communication and cooperation between YuHu **Group** and Australia government," the **company**'s website states.

Ms Huang said "a lot" of Australian politicians visited **China** during the period to meet **Chinese** investors and the **company** first encountered Mr Roozendaal at a promotional event in Australia.

She confirmed Mr Roozendaal was working as YuHu's vice-chairman offering advice on "strategic planning". "He works in the office managing the staff," she said. "It's a very early stages for the **company**. He's quite skilled on HR systems and staff training.

"In strategic planning he can provide a lot of useful information to the **company**. That's his value."

Mr Roozendaal declined to comment.

NS greg : Regional Politics | gpol : Domestic Politics | gcat : Political/General News | gpri :
Politics/International Relations

RE austr : Australia | china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | ausnz : Australia/Oceania | bric :
BRIC Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz :
Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB Fairfax Media Management Pty Limited

AN Document SMHH000020140203ea240000j