



Speech by

KAREN STRUTHERS

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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STATE DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Ms STRUTHERS (Algeria—ALP) (12.29 p.m.): I have repeatedly stated that the Algeria electorate is the economic hub of south-east Queensland. It is a bustling community with a solid industry and commercial base in suburbs like Acacia Ridge—where my office is located and where I have lived and grown up—and new areas around Stapylton and the Logan Motorway.

State development initiatives, whether they be a new metals plant in central Queensland or a new technology centre in Brisbane, all have a positive impact on my local area. It is local industries in my area that provide transport, valued-added processing, services and components to industries statewide. An economic development project in central Queensland will reap dollars and jobs for my local area as well as regional Queensland. I am therefore always keen to support the Minister for State Development in his quest to grow industries throughout Queensland.

This bill, for instance, includes amendments to the Electricity Act 1994, which will give a kick-along to the \$1.2 billion AMC magnesium metal project near Rockhampton. The AMC project will provide up to 1,350 construction jobs, 350 operational jobs and many hundreds of other associated jobs, including those that impact back positively into my own local area. The Department of State Development and the State Development Centres in Brisbane and around the state provide fuel for these engine rooms driving new economic development around Queensland.

I want to take this opportunity to commend the work of the State Development Department, its support of the AMC project and the many other industry initiatives occurring in my region and around Queensland. Risk-taking investors and industry managers and owners can take some comfort in the fact that Queensland has a government that supports industry, a government that supports economic growth, and we have in the electorate of Algeria an economic hub that is keen to be part of the action.

The emerging Stapylton/Parkinson commercial light industrial areas are situated ideally adjacent to the southern bypass road, and my message to investors and industry representatives is: we need more jobs in our area. The outer southern suburbs need industries to be growing and relocating into our area. We welcome growing, responsible industries that want a new home. So that is my message to investors and industries.

I support this bill. The minister is doing a great job in steering economic development in this state.
