Speech By

Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

ADJOURNMENT

Coding and Robotics

Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (7.23 pm): Coding and robotics will play an important part in our future. I have been delighted to work with schools in my electorate of Algester to provide additional support and ensure our students are at the head of the pack. We know the world is changing at an ever-increasing pace and coding and robotics will be key skills in many of the jobs of the future. By helping our schools enhance their existing coding and robotics offerings, we can ensure that more children are introduced to those incredibly important STEM skills.

I have met with local principals to coordinate support across the Algester electorate, to share resources, knowledge and expertise for the benefit of all students, and also to talk about bringing families along on the journey. Having spoken to teachers and principals at Forest Lake State High School, St Stephen's Catholic Primary School, Algester State School, Boronia Heights State School, Pallara State School and Grand Avenue State School, I am excited about the thriving student coding and robotics community we are creating.

As part of this, I have provided four schools in Algester with Ozobots—tiny smart robots used to introduce children to coding and robotics—and tablets. Ozobots are tools that students can use to learn how to code and direct robots. They are also a great way for students to share this language with their parents. If we are to remain globally competitive into the future, it is vitally important to encourage interest among all Queenslanders, and that includes parents and caregivers.

During my school visits, I was delighted to see the enthusiasm that students of all ages already have for coding and robotic activities. At Algester State School, year 3 students showed off the equipment from their coding and robotics program, before being the first students to try out the new Ozobots that I donated. At Boronia Heights State School, students quickly showed their innate talent for coding and robotics by providing an on-the-spot demonstration of the new Ozobots. Both Pillara State School and Grand Avenue State School have established coding and robotic clubs that are championed by dedicated teachers. The additional robots will allow the schools to complement and expand their current activities.

We know that these skills are vital for our kids' future. I am very proud of the students of the Algester electorate and their enthusiasm for developing skills that will stand them in good stead as they move from school to further education and into the workforce. However, I am even more excited about the role our students may play in helping their parents, caregivers and families learn new skills and in demystifying coding and robotic skills, along with other STEM skills, as we all adapt to the changing workforce.