




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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ADJOURNMENT

Windaroo Valley State High School

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (9.42 pm): This LNP government has shown a firm commitment to education in this state by providing students with suitable education platforms which will allow them to build a brighter future. Our focus is on delivering real educational outcomes for the next generation. This brings me to what I believe is a common problem, but not a commonly spoken about problem—that is, students who are intelligent and eager to learn but not academically minded. These kids deserve an equal chance to learn and succeed in life through a non-traditional educational setting such as through onsite, hands-on trades training. Some of our most successful business owners started their careers in a trade. A trade is a great career pathway. I am sure the member for Burnett would agree with this. As a qualified builder he has provided practical, hands-on training to over 120 apprentices.

For some time I have been working very closely with the Windaroo Valley State High School. I have been supplying fruit trees to help them with their diverse school programs. One of their staff members, Mr Randall Waddell, was explaining to me the need to expand educational pathways. Around the same time I met with Charlie at the Albert River Community Farm. The Albert River Community Farm is run by Centrecare, a non-profit organisation. They are certainly searching for a community partnership with a school or other community groups. This was a light bulb moment. We saw that we could potentially start up a partnership with the local school.

With the support of Brenda and Kay from the Smith Family Partnership, Kay Lourens the principal of Windaroo Valley State High School and Randall Waddell and Bell Brown from the school we have started a tangible program that is producing tangible results for the kids. I am happy to say that the program started in term 3 this year. This program is a certificate II in horticulture. It has given students hands-on experience in landscaping techniques. Potentially there will be real job outcomes for the students. This government is about getting real job outcomes. It is about getting tangible results for students who may not be academically minded but are committed to a career pathway for themselves.

(Time expired)