

SEEDS IN SPACE

Statement by Member for Forrestfield

MR S.J. PRICE (Forrestfield — Deputy Speaker) [12.23 pm]: “What’ll happen to the Wattle?” is an exciting STEM project investigating the effect space travel has on seeds. Woodlupine Primary School year 6 students, Jett, Cody, Sukhpreet and Jaslyn, guided by the school gardener, Tammy, and teacher Karena Joyce, submitted a successful written nomination and short video to the One Giant Leap Australia Foundation to join their Seeds in Space educational program. Seeds from our national floral emblem, the golden wattle, journeyed from Australia to Japan, then on to the US where they were launched into space on a SpaceX flight. The seeds were in space for six months, from December 2020 to June 2021, before beginning their long journey home. Following biosecurity clearance, the space seeds, together with seeds from the same seed lot, made their final trip to the successful schools around Australia. Woodlupine Primary School excitedly received its seeds on Tuesday, 31 August 2021. This exciting space experiment is yet another example of the innovative learning that is taking place at Woodlupine Primary School. The school also collaborates with the Western Australian Herbarium on its seed bank project that protects critically endangered native plant species. I would like to congratulate principal Trevor Phoebe and all the teachers and staff on their dedication to sustainability and the continual pursuit of purposeful and unique learning opportunities for these wonderful students.