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## PILBARA KIDS TO GO DIGITAL

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**Sam Jones**

Every Pilbara primary school will this term teach coding and automation skills to Year 5 and 6 students in a bid to bolster digital technology knowledge among youngsters in the region.

The Resources Challenges: Automation pilot program has been quickly snapped up by all 26 primary schools, as well as Karratha Senior High School and Port Hedland School of the Air.

Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA chief executive Paul Everingham said the measure, which was funded and developed through the Pilbara Collaboration Charter, would teach digital technology in the context of the WA resources sector.

“Coding and automation skills will be learnt as students navigate their robots representing autonomous haul trucks, drill and underwater vehicles or drones across maps that represent scenarios that are faced by the State’s resources sector,” he said.

“Industry representatives will assist teaching the concepts and share their career journeys through short online videos set in the challenges.”

Mr Everingham said the key component of the initiative was the value it would add to the upskilling of regional teachers through professional development.

“The Resources Challenges: Automation will provide Pilbara-based teachers real-world challenges from a sector that is associated with the local communities where people live and work,” he said.

The charter was signed by WA Premier Mark McGowan, the CME and its members BHP, Chevron, CITIC, Fortescue Metals Group, Rio Tinto Iron Ore, Roy Hill, Woodside and Yara Pilbara.



**Karina L'Estrelle, Jessica O'Neill, Penny Player, Alex Beament, Louisa Larado and Jarrod Kuah.**