



UPPER SPENCER GULF COMMON PURPOSE GROUP

MEDIA RELEASE

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The strength of the Upper Spencer Gulf continues to be reinforced, with political leaders from local, state and federal governments united in their support for the future of the region.

The 'Upper Spencer Gulf Mayors and MP's forum' is an initiative of the Common Purpose Group that brings together elected representatives from all tiers of government covering Port Augusta, Whyalla and Port Pirie.

The forum provides opportunity for discussion by the three local Mayors, State members for Giles - Eddie Hughes, Frome - Geoff Brock and Stuart - Dan vanHolst Pellekaan and Federal member for Grey - Rowan Ramsey.

Forum host and Deputy Chair of the Common Purpose Group, Port Augusta Mayor Sam Johnson said the regular meetings provide an avenue to discuss issues of importance to the whole region and to help build a positive and united profile for the Upper Spencer Gulf.

"Regardless of our political allegiances, we are all united in wanting the best for this region", said Mayor Johnson.

Items considered at the most recent forum included:

- Opportunities for growth in next generation renewables and the clean-tech sector
- A new, collaborative model of university, research and industry partnership being explored for the region
- Consolidation of environmental data to support a more timely and integrated approach to future development assessment in the region
- Strategic infrastructure options for the USG including expanding under-utilised port facilities in Port Pirie and Whyalla and the upgrade of Yorkey's crossing for heavy vehicles.

"The three cities are so reliant on each other that to all grow and prosper, we need to maintain a good understanding of our common goals and work collectively on overcoming challenges to that end", explained Mayor Johnson.

With over 50,000 people across our three cities, we have the potential to be a significant political and economic force, so it is important we focus our collective effort and vision".

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Contact:

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Photo attached

Photo from left: Member for Frome Geoff Brock, Port Pirie Mayor John Rohde, Member for Giles Eddie Hughes, Member for Stuart Dan vanHolst Pellekaan, Upper Spencer Gulf Executive Officer Anita Crisp, Port Augusta Mayor Sam Johnson, Federal member for Grey Rowan Ramsey. Absent from photo was Whyalla Mayor Jim Pollock.

