



## UPPER SPENCER GULF COMMON PURPOSE GROUP

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# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Renewable Energy and Technology Future for Upper Spencer Gulf

A report by the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group has highlighted thirteen areas where the region can improve growth in the renewable energy and cleantech sectors.

With input from universities, industry and Government, the report identifies the Upper Spencer Gulf as an ideal location to trial and test renewable energy and complementary technology research and innovation, development and commercialisation and to support large scale renewable energy projects such as solar photovoltaic farms, solar thermal and wind energy.

Executive Officer of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group, Anita Crisp explains that one of the main priorities in the report is for the region to develop local technical and research capacity to support this expanding industry sector.

"A number of local companies have already participated in renewable energy projects and the report suggests this experience can be used as a basis to develop a local workforce skilled across the renewable energy supply chain", said Anita.

"At the moment, the three cities are all below the state average in the share of technical, scientific and professional services", explained Ms Crisp. "There are opportunities for us to develop specialised training programs to support upskilling for the renewables industry. This could be coupled with an industry and mentoring program that would provide the basis for significant innovation in the region".

The Common Purpose Group is already working closely with Adelaide University's Centre for Energy Technology, who are actively investigating a range of new technologies in partnership with industry in the Upper Spencer Gulf.

"In addition, there are a number of renewable energy innovators active in the region who could also be strategic partners for the deployment and commercialisation of emerging technology", adds Anita. "The report suggests that we support development of industry clusters in this sector and work with Government to develop an industry exchange program so that core businesses in the region can learn the skills and technologies to support the renewable energy and clean-tech sectors".

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Photo over page: (from left) Troy Grover (RDA Far North), Dion Dorward (RDA Whyalla and EP), Robin O'Dea (TAFE), John O'Brien (Australian CleanTech), Professor Bassam Dally from Adelaide University's Centre for Energy Technology, Joanne Galley (Dept of State Development), Alison Washusen (Adelaide University), Port Augusta Mayor Sam Johnson discussed opportunities from a new report into renewable energy and technology growth potential for the Upper Spencer Gulf.

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