



## UPPER SPENCER GULF COMMON PURPOSE GROUP

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# MEDIA RELEASE

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Representatives from across the Upper Spencer Gulf proudly celebrated top local researcher, Dr Jen Cleary at the Science Excellence Awards in Adelaide recently.

A finalist in the PHD research excellence for life and environmental sciences award, Dr Cleary is the Senior Research Development Manager for the University of South Australia in Whyalla and Adjunct Professor with Canberra University.

She is also chair of Regional Development Australia Far North, based in Port Augusta and chair of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group's Education and Research Steering Committee.

"The Upper Spencer Gulf is well placed to develop its own research capability and support industry development and innovation", said Dr Cleary.

"With the transformation of the Nyrstar smelter into a state of the art poly-metallic processing and recovery facility, the current investigation into new clean technologies such as solar thermal in Port Augusta and cutting edge business interests such as Sundrop Farms in Port Augusta and Muradel Algae to Biofuel project in Whyalla, we can really see the need for an expanded higher education and research presence based in the region", she said.

Chair of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group, Mayor Brenton Vanstone, agrees, citing the commitment by the State Government to developing a major biosecurity research facility near Port Augusta as a further indication of the potential for the region.

"The Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group is already collaborating with the university and research sector to progress a number of current initiatives and we can see this as a real growth potential for our region", said Mayor Vanstone.

"To have the Upper Spencer Gulf represented by Dr Cleary at the Science Excellence Awards provides a great role model for others in our region and a testament to what is possible".

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Photo: From left – Dr Cleary's PhD Supervisor Professor Peter Munn, Dr Jen Cleary and husband Anthony, Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group Executive Officer, Anita Crisp and Chair, Mayor Brenton Vanstone, Regional Development Australia Far North CEO, Claire Wiseman and partner Darren Strawbridge.

