



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

21<sup>st</sup> May 2014

The priorities of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group have been confirmed, following a strategic planning workshop held in Port Augusta earlier this week.

Chairman of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group - Mayor Brenton Vanstone, said regional sustainability, economic development, skills and education are high on the list.

"The Upper Spencer Gulf has many opportunities that we will be pursuing over the coming years", said Mayor Vanstone.

"We have had positive news about the upgrade and expansion of the Nyrstar smelting facility that will benefit the whole Upper Spencer Gulf and bring a new level of confidence to the region. There are also significant opportunities in renewable energy that could be quite transformational", he said.

"In addition, our collective workforce skill-set and strong industrial base means the Upper Spencer Gulf cities are a logical choice for servicing mines that come on line in the north of the state over coming years," said Mayor Vanstone.

"We also consider the Upper Spencer Gulf is well placed to develop as an industry hub for tertiary and vocational skills and education. We are already moving to pursue this with universities, TAFE and secondary school sectors", said Mayor Vanstone.

"It is also important that we continue to grow the capacity of our three cities to service surrounding communities in a variety of retail, health, specialist and educational services, so country people don't have to always travel to Adelaide."

"Many of these opportunities were foreshadowed as part of a Memorandum of Understanding that was jointly signed by the State, Commonwealth and Local Government in 2012", said Mayor Vanstone. "They are still highly relevant and we aim to re-engage both Adelaide and Canberra in our aspirations for the future."

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*Photo attached*

**Photo:** (from left) Upper Spencer Gulf Chair and Port Pirie Mayor Brenton Vanstone, Executive Officer Anita Crisp, Port Augusta Mayor Sam Johnson and Whyalla Mayor Jim Pollock met in Port Augusta to consider future priorities for the region.

