



## UPPER SPENCER GULF COMMON PURPOSE GROUP

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# MEDIA RELEASE

30<sup>th</sup> June 2014

The Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group met in Port Pirie recently to progress a range of initiatives aimed at supporting economic and community growth across Port Augusta, Whyalla and Port Pirie.

The Group is a long-standing alliance of local government, regional development and education representatives from across the region, including Port Pirie Mayor (and chair of the group) Brenton Vanstone and Council CEO Dr Andrew Johnson, Whyalla Mayor Jim Pollock and CEO Peter Peppin, Port Augusta Mayor Sam Johnson and CEO Greg Perkin, Regional Development Australia CEO's Kelly-Anne Saffin, Claire Wiseman and Dion Dorward, Education sector representatives Dr Jen Cleary (University of SA), Robin O'Dea (TAFE SA) and Terry Sizer (DECD).

As part of the Port Pirie meeting, delegates met with Nyrstar representatives Bertus De Villiers and Gail Bartel to gain a better appreciation of the transformation project.

"The project is significant for the whole Upper Spencer Gulf region", said Mayor Vanstone. "It is important that we collectively understand how the Port Pirie operation will move from a primary lead smelter into a state-of-the-art poly-metallic processing and recovery facility, and importantly, how this will support a long-term vision of a cleaner, more innovative, sustainable and economically secure region.

"We are very appreciative of the time given by Mr De Villiers and Ms Bartel to our delegation", said Mayor Vanstone.

Group members then toured the TAFE facilities in Port Pirie, the newly completed foreshore project, the proposed sporting precinct and Northern Festival centre upgrade sites and received a presentation from Regional Development Australia and Council on the proposed port expansion concept.

The meeting also received presentations from Global Maintenance Upper Spencer Gulf and the Local Employment Coordination project and discussed progress on delivery of the Commonwealth's 'Regional Sustainability' program, the Upper Spencer Gulf Education, Skills and Research Hub and a number of Local Government Collaboration initiatives.

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**Contact:**

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Ms Anita Crisp – Executive Officer; 0427 609 404

*Photo attached*

**Photo:** Members of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group attending the most recent meeting in Port Pirie included Whyalla Mayor Jim Pollock and Council CEO Peter Peppin, Port Augusta Deputy Mayor Phil Gregan and Council CEO Greg Perkin, RDA Yorke and Mid North CEO Kelly-Anne Saffin, RDA Far North CEO Claire Wiseman, Port Pirie Mayor and Chair of the Common Purpose Group Benton Vanstone, TAFE SA Regional Manager Robin O'Dea, along with Executive Officer Anita Crisp and Project Support Officer Lucy Kennewell.

Also present were Andrea Broadfoot and Shae Yuill from the Commonwealth Local Employment Coordinator project and Mark Malcolm from Global Maintenance Upper Spencer Gulf.

