



UPPER SPENCER GULF COMMON PURPOSE GROUP

MEDIA RELEASE

29th July 2014

Leaders from local government, regional development and the education sector have welcomed Alinta's recent decision to focus their feasibility study on solar-thermal options.

The show of support has come after members of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group met with Alinta's Plant Manager, Greg McIntyre and toured the Port Augusta facility.

The visit coincided with the company's recent announcement they had ruled out hybrid coal/solar options as part of their two-year feasibility study, instead focusing on the viability of stand-alone solar thermal power generation.

"We welcome Alinta's latest progress report and look forward to the outcome of the final study in 2016", said chair of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group and Port Pirie Mayor, Brenton Vanstone. "As a major employer in the region, Alinta's future is important to all of us".

"Our representatives were very impressed by the Port Augusta facility and gained first hand insight into the complexity of the national electricity market", added Mayor Vanstone. "We are very appreciative of the time given by Mr McIntyre and his staff".

The two year feasibility study is jointly funded by Alinta, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the South Australian Government.

The Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose 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).

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