



## UPPER SPENCER GULF COMMON PURPOSE GROUP

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# MEDIA RELEASE

30<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Local Government, regional development and education sector representatives from across the Upper Spencer Gulf recently visited Arrium OneSteel, Muradel and the University of South Australia campus in Whyalla.

The visit was part of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group's regular program of meetings, which also takes in a number of local site visits.

Chair of the committee, Port Pirie Mayor Brenton Vanstone, explained it was important the group was familiar with key industries and issues across each of the three cities.

"Over the past few months we have met with delegates from Nyrstar in Port Pirie, Alinta in Port Augusta and Arrium OneSteel in Whyalla", said Mayor Vanstone. "So much of our collective heritage and future is aligned with our industrial capacity – it is important that we understand their aspirations and issues."

The Group have also met with representatives from BHP Billiton, Oz Minerals, the Muradel bio-algae project, a number of civic projects across the three cities including the Port Augusta sports centre and the award winning Whyalla foreshore redevelopment and the Port Pirie port expansion proposal.

The recent Whyalla meeting also received a presentation from consultants 'MasterPlan' on a project they are delivering with the three Councils to investigate opportunities for better synergies and alignment across development planning in the three cities.

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 John Banks, 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), Terry Sizer and Ian May (DECD).

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**Photo (overpage):**

Representatives from the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group visited the Muradel algae biofuel plant in Whyalla recently.

