



## UPPER SPENCER GULF COMMON PURPOSE GROUP

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# MEDIA RELEASE

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The future of the Upper Spencer Gulf as a significant player in renewable energy and clean technologies was bolstered recently, following a meeting with Professor Ross Garnaut in Port Augusta.

Professor Garnaut is an internationally respected economist who has held senior roles with government, business and universities, including a period as Australia's Ambassador to China and adviser to several Prime Ministers on economics, trade policy and relations with Asia and the Pacific.

Professor Garnaut is impressed by the range of high quality resources in or near the region for renewable energy production, noting the potential of the Upper Spencer Gulf and environs as the "best region in the best country for renewables".

Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group Executive Officer, Anita Crisp, said the opportunity to meet with Professor Garnaut and discuss the potential of the three cities reinforced the future significance of the region to the state and national economies.

"For someone of Professor Garnaut's standing internationally to be interested in our region and genuinely positive about our future certainly boosts our confidence", said Ms Crisp.

The visit comes as the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group continues to work with a number of research institutions, businesses and local representatives to develop a Renewable Energy and Clean Technologies strategy for the region.

The strategy will assess local resources, including solar, wind, wave, geothermal, algae for biofuels and even hydro and nuclear, consider future trends in renewable energy demand domestically and globally and offer recommendations on how the Upper Spencer Gulf may best progress its competitive advantage in this sector.

"This work is very consistent with our vision to secure the future of the Upper Spencer Gulf as a leader in innovation and new technologies and improve the liveability and long term sustainability of our three cities", said Anita.

"With Nyrstar's transformation to a multi-metals recovery facility and potential to process global e-waste, Alinta's investigation into future solar thermal power generation and innovative businesses such as the Muradel algae to biofuel project and Sundrop Farm's solar-powered intensive horticulture operation, we are really starting to see just what is possible for this region".

The Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group is an alliance comprising the Mayors of Port Pirie, Whyalla and Port Augusta, Council and Regional Development CEO's and representatives from the education sector.

Professor Garnaut has led several Australian diplomatic missions and has also led many high-level Government Reviews and Commissions, including the report on 'Australia and the Northeast Asian Ascendency'; the review of the Wool Industry; the review of Commonwealth-State Funding; and the Garnaut Climate Change Review. He has held positions as board Chairman for Australian and international public companies in finance and banking, agriculture, mining and minerals processing sectors and has authored or contributed to numerous books and academic publications on international economics, public finance, and economic development.

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Contact:

Ms Anita Crisp – Executive Officer; 0427 609 404

Photo from left: Port Augusta Council City Manager, John Banks and Councillor Lisa Lumsden, Upper Spencer Gulf Executive Officer Anita Crisp; Professor Ross Garnaut; Port Augusta Mayor Sam Johnson and former Port Pirie Mayor Brenton Vanstone; Mid North Climate Change Coordinator Natasha Hall; Upper Spencer Gulf Project Officer Lucy Kennewell; Whyalla Council CEO Peter Peppin and Alex Todd from Regional Development Australia in Whyalla.

