



UPPER SPENCER GULF COMMON PURPOSE GROUP

Upper Spencer Gulf Spotlight Continues

12 August 2016

The Upper Spencer Gulf continues to draw national support and attention, with a forum for business and community leaders to be addressed by the new Federal Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, the Hon Greg Hunt.

The '*Transforming the Upper Spencer Gulf – Future Industries*' forum and dinner is being held the evening of Tuesday 16th August in Port Pirie, as an initiative of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group.

Chair of the Group, Mr Lew Owens, said the event will give community and business leaders from Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirie an opportunity to hear from a selection of academics, researchers and community development experts and explore what it really takes to transform an economy and a community.

"We are drawing on the experience of experts like Professor Andrew Beer - Dean of Research and Innovation at University of South Australia, Professor Peter Murphy from the Future Industries Institute and Dr Kim Houghton from the Regional Australia Institute to help guide this discussion", said Mr Owens.

"We also very excited to have Mr Peter Kenyon providing the keynote address at the forum", added Lew. "Peter has worked with over 1600 communities in 59 countries and his key message is that communities have to build from the inside out, and invest themselves, ideas, assets and resources in the process."

Mayor of Port Augusta, Sam Johnson is looking forward to the event.

"We hope to learn from the experiences of other regional centres around Australia and the world and find out how we can make the economic transition of our three cities and our region a success for the long term and avoid the roller coaster that we have all faced repeatedly following a major economic shock", said Mayor Johnson.

"Given the Upper Spencer Gulf has already lost well over 2,000 direct jobs over the past 12-18 months, amounting to around 4% of the region's population, the forum is very timely", says Mr Johnson. "We need to make sure we can diversify and grow the economic opportunities in the region, so we don't find ourselves back in a crisis situation."

"We are very thankful to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science for sponsoring the event and very pleased the Minister himself is able to attend", he adds.

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Contact:

Mr Lew Owens, Chair – Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group
Mayor Sam Johnson - Pt Augusta Council

Mobile: 0433 348 489
Mobile: 0423 291 127