



## **UPPER SPENCER GULF COMMON PURPOSE GROUP**

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### **Support for Upper Spencer Gulf Future Industries**

28 April 2016

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The Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group is leading the development of a package of initiatives to help transition the economy of the three regional cities.

Future growth opportunities have been identified in renewable energy, defence, arid innovation and research, agriculture and minerals value-adding, national transport and logistics hub, conferences and events and public service administration, along with a new model higher education and research delivery.

Chair of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group, Lew Owens says whilst the full potential of these new industries won't be realised for many years, there are some opportunities in the short term.

"We know, for example, there are a number of solar-based renewable energy projects proposed for the region that are just waiting on approvals or decisions by various levels of Government", explains Mr Owens. "Hopefully these final steps can be worked through in the short term so they can begin construction".

The Group has also identified the expansion of the Cultana Defence Training facility and recent announcement of the future submarine contract as opportunities to grow the region's involvement and capabilities in Defence Industries.

"In the short term, we would be very keen to see if there is scope for the Cultana expansion to be fast-tracked, and for a more concerted effort by the Department of Defence to simplify and streamline its procurement processes to allow more local businesses the opportunity to provide a variety of construction and range maintenance support including fencing, firebreak and signage, road and track development".

The proposal will be considered by the Department of State Development over coming weeks.

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Contact:

Mr Lew Owens, Chair – Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group:

Mobile: 0433 348 489