



## UPPER SPENCER GULF COMMON PURPOSE GROUP

### Renewables, Defence and Local Steel Focus for Upper Spencer Gulf

29 February 2016

The Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group is urging a stronger and more pro-active response by the State and Federal Governments to the economic crisis in the Upper Spencer Gulf.

The alliance of local government, regional development and education sector representatives from Port Augusta, Whyalla and Port Pirie made the appeal at their most recent meeting, as they continue to develop their own package of initiatives to transform the region.

"We are particularly focussing on growth in renewable energy and defence along with value-adding opportunities for agriculture and minerals processing", said the Group's Chair, Lew Owens. "There are a lot of existing reports, studies and investigations which we have started to consolidate into an economic transition strategy for the region."

The Upper Spencer Gulf Group is also pleased at the recent South Australian Government announcement that that all future steel for public infrastructure projects would be from Australian standard certified fabricators and mills, with the hope that other states and the Federal Government would also adopt a similar policy.

Mr Owens said the Group is also continuing to forge stronger links to the South Australian Government's Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Taskforce that was established in May 2015 following around 2,000 job losses in the region, with a further 1,000 jobs now dependent on the outcome of Arrium Onesteel's decision in mid-2016 about the future of their Whyalla operations.

"Job losses in the Upper Spencer Gulf already amount to around 4% of our population", explained Mr Owens. "When you consider the \$184 million economic transition package from State and Federal Governments for Northern Adelaide ahead of 1,600 jobs to be lost from Holden, we are very keen to work with Government to focus efforts on taking full advantage of new opportunities for our region."

\*\*\*\*\*END\*\*\*\*\*

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

Mobile: 0433 348 489

Photo: Chair of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common  
Purpose Group, Mr Lew Owens.

