



State and Local Discussions Continue

27 April 2017

Party politics was put aside as the Upper Spencer Gulf Mayors and Members of Parliament came together to discuss the future of the region.

Elected representatives from the Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla Councils, along with the South Australian Labor member for Giles, Eddie Hughes, Liberal member for Stuart Dan van Holst Pellekaan and Independent member for Frome Geoff Brock, met in Adelaide last week for their quarterly 'Mayors and MPs Forum'.

Meeting chair, Port Augusta Mayor Sam Johnson said the regular meetings were an important part of maintaining unity and strength across the three cities.

"We all live here, this is our home. We all have a vested interest in making sure we succeed. There is too much at stake if we don't."

Mayor Johnson explained that the three cities have all suffered loss of industry and jobs over past decades, with the shared experience proving valuable in helping to maintain a positive long term outlook.

"We all understand what it's like to have your whole future just hanging in the balance, but fortunately we can also share in the good times and reflect on the lessons learned.

"We have a situation now, for example, where, after a few years of uncertainty about the future of the smelter, Port Pirie has come out the other side and is really starting to flourish."

"It gives the other two cities a boost because, whilst Port Augusta and Whyalla are still right in the middle of their own significant economic and social upheaval, we see that if we can pull through, opportunities and optimism will come back."

"That is a bond that really helps keep us together".

Federal member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey was an apology for the meeting.

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