



## **Cyprus High Commissioner Visits Upper Spencer Gulf**

7 April 2017

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The Upper Spencer Gulf has drawn the attention of the Australian High Commissioner to the Republic of Cyprus, who visited the region recently.

His Excellency, Mr Alan Sweetman, toured Port Augusta, Whyalla and Port Pirie, receiving civic receptions in each city and an insight into potential trade and investment opportunities.

The visit followed a request by the Foreign Minister, the Hon Julie Bishop, for all Heads of Mission to engage with regional communities across Australia to explore potential business, trade and investment opportunities and partnerships.

Mr Sweetman said he chose to visit Port Augusta and the Upper Spencer Gulf due to interest in innovations in arid agriculture, horticulture and water and new renewable energy technology such as solar thermal.

Spencer Gulf Cities Chair and Port Augusta Mayor, Sam Johnson said the visit by Mr Sweetman provided a great opportunity to start exploring potential collaboration between Cyprus and the Upper Spencer Gulf.

"We understand that bilateral trade between Australia and Cyprus is currently quite small, but the climate and geography are quite similar, opening up potential for future niche partnerships across water, energy and agricultural innovation".

"We set out quite a full program for the High Commissioner, covering the three cities over his two-day visit, but he has indicated he will be returning to South Australia in coming months and is keen to follow-up some of the initial contacts made", said the Mayor.

"We are very pleased the High Commissioner chose to visit the Upper Spencer Gulf and look forward to progressing a number of the opportunities identified"

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Photo:

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Photo 1 - The Australian High Commissioner to the Republic of Cyprus, His Excellency, Mr Alan Sweetman with Port Augusta Mayor Sam Johnson and Member for Stuart Dan van Holst Pellekaan at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens.



Photo 2 -Mr Sweetman visiting Muradel with Whyalla Mayor Lyn Breuer, Regional Development Australia Economic Development Manager, Mr Alex Todd and Muradel CEO Dr Ross Mierendorff.

