



South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy

MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD PROVIDE TIMELY

BOOST TO SA MINERAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

South Australia's potential mining sector growth will be further encouraged if the State Government listens to its own Labor dominated House of Assembly Natural Resources Committee, according to the SA Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME).

The State's peak mining lobby group has welcomed the tabling in State Parliament this week of the Natural Resources Committee's *Report into Mineral Resource Development in South Australia*.

SACOME Senior Industry Advocate, Mr Andrew Blue, said the Chair of the Committee, Labor MP for Enfield Mr John Rau, has made a valuable contribution to the discussion over the State's need for enhanced infrastructure.

"John Rau's call for an examination of the challenges and opportunities presented by the potential growth in the mining industry and his recommendation that Government work with SACOME to consider specific infrastructure challenges are a timely boost for the industry," Mr Blue said.

"SACOME has commissioned a major study into the infrastructure necessary on a statewide basis in order for the mining industry to flourish in South Australia and hopes to present its findings to the State Government early in 2007," he said.

"John Rau clearly understands the importance of the resources industry to the growth and prosperity of South Australia. Major defence projects are few and far between and not always on the scale of a major resources project like Olympic Dam. The manufacturing sectors including motor vehicle manufacturers are struggling, as is the pastoral and wine industry.

"The State's geography and geology presents some fabulous opportunities and at the same time major challenges. Without support from the State and Federal government on infrastructure much of the wealth of our state may remain locked in the ground.

"The Natural Resources Committee Report also highlights the decision-making arrangements of the Native Vegetation Council and SACOME calls on the Government to accept the Committee's recommendation to clarify the process and

ensure that decisions affecting native vegetation and mining developments are dealt with under the Mining Act.

“The Natural Resources Committee’s *Report into Mineral Resource Development in South Australia* is a fine report and the majority of its recommendations, if implemented, would be a timely boost for the mining industry as it seeks to move from an exploration boom to a mining boom.”

FURTHER INFORMATION

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