

South
Australian
Chamber
Of
Mines &
Energy

SACOME

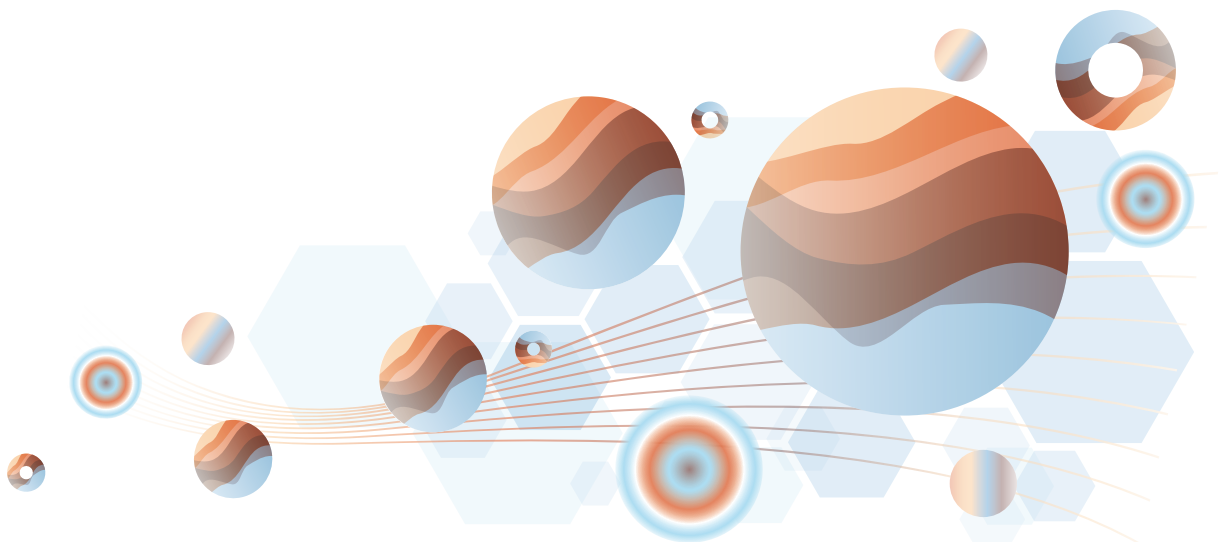
RESOURCES SECTOR Pre-Election Priorities 2026



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SACOME is fully member-funded and is proud to advocate on behalf of the South Australian resources sector with true independence.



Context

The South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME) is the leading industry body representing companies with interests in the South Australian minerals, energy, extractive, oil and gas sectors and associated service providers.

SACOME is fully member-funded and is proud to advocate for the South Australian resources sector with true independence.

The value of the South Australian resources sector has been quantified through SACOME's most recent *2023/24 Economic Contribution Study*, which found that 18 member companies contributed \$9.5 billion in direct and indirect spending to South Australia's economy, equivalent to 6.4% of Gross State Product, or one dollar in every fifteen.

SACOME's 2026 Pre-Election priorities are informed by close consultation with member companies and set out the bipartisan policy commitments sought by SACOME members from political stakeholders over the next electoral term.

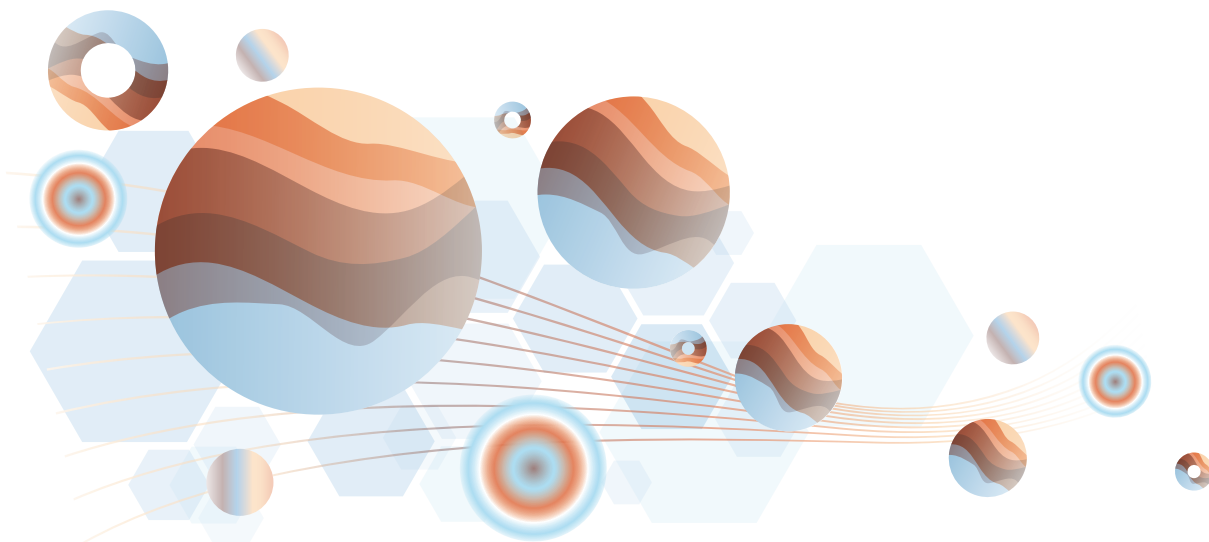
The 2026 South Australian election occurs at a time of major change, as the economy and the industrial base undergoes a once-in-a-generation shift driven by a policy impetus to decarbonise,

expand critical minerals and metals supply, and grow value-added refining and value-added activity.

A shift to a more interventionist policy footing by the South Australian and Australian Governments represents a response to global supply chain pressure, growing geopolitical competition and a desire to capture the economic benefits of emerging industries.

The Australian Government's *Future Made in Australia* policy aims to encourage and facilitate private sector investment to drive the industrial and energy transition process, supported by a \$22.7 billion investment of public funding.

6.4% OF GROSS STATE PRODUCT
IS GENERATED BY JUST 18 MAJOR OPERATORS IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RESOURCES SECTOR



\$9.5 BILLION

**IN DIRECT & INDIRECT SPENDING
CONTRIBUTION TO SA ECONOMY
BY ENERGY AND MINING SECTOR**

The South Australian Government's suite of policy measures including the *State Prosperity Project*, *Green Iron & Steel Strategy*, *Northern Water Project* and *Whyalla Steelworks Industrial Transformation* share a similarly ambitious scope and alignment with the national policy framework.

The scope and complexity of this industrialisation agenda require planning, sequencing and ongoing dialogue, with the resources sector being a key partner in delivery of these objectives.

SACOME continues to advocate for measures that resolve hurdles to investment in South Australian resources projects, which are principally energy, water supply and a path to market.

We reiterate the importance of consistent, concerted effort to realising the growth of the resources sector and transformation of the state's economy. This is consistent with the shared vision of SACOME's member companies and government for the accelerated advancement of the South Australian resources sector, attracting investment and delivering sustainable economic prosperity for SACOME's members and the state.

SACOME's 2026 Election Priorities represent key enablers of an overarching 'Resources Sector Roadmap', comprising the activities that SACOME members have identified as necessary to meet sector development, energy transition and industrial transformation goals.

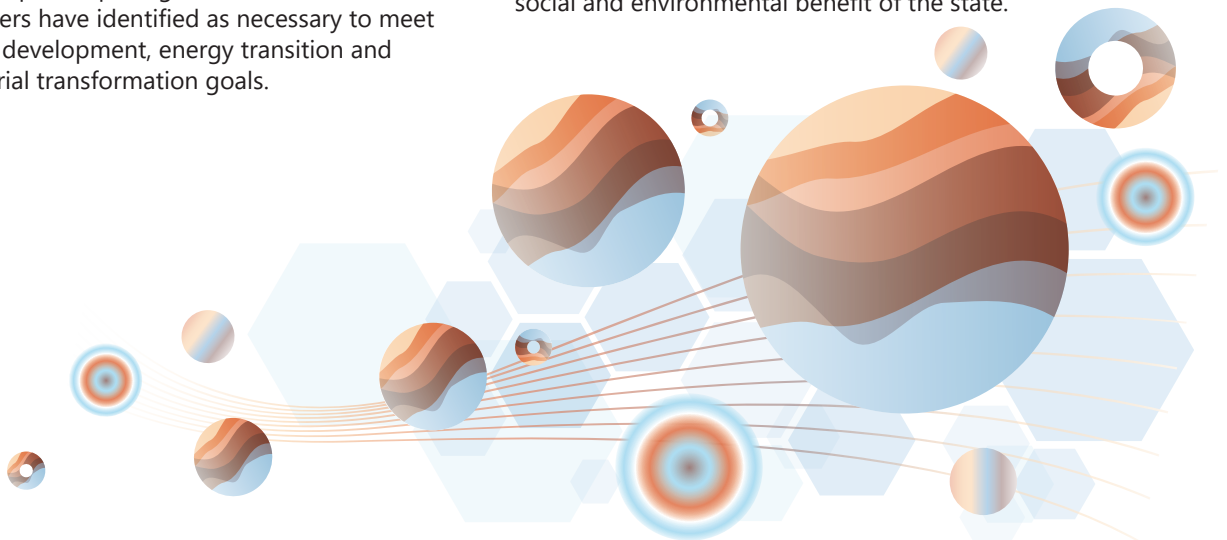
These are:

- Energy Affordability & Reliability.
- Resources Sector Infrastructure Corridors
- Critical Minerals & Metals Supply Chain Development
- Northern Water Project

SACOME advances a focused set of election priorities that maintain the momentum of sector development through building on past effort; and which leverage the alignment between the South Australian and Australian Governments to grow new opportunities.

SACOME emphasises that partnering with the Australian Government to leverage funding opportunities must continue be a focus for the South Australian Government, recognising the important role that state governments play in advocating for a share of national investment and supporting business case development.

SACOME and its member companies remain committed to working with all stakeholders for the continued development of the South Australian resources sector and the economic, social and environmental benefit of the state.



SACOME PRE-ELECTION PRIORITIES 2026

Resources Sector Roadmap



Energy Reliability & Affordability

Energy reliability and affordability, including the role of gas and gas supply for energy security is of paramount importance and a first-order priority for SACOME.

Clear, staged transition planning is needed to improve energy reliability and affordability; and to position the South Australian resources sector as a national leader in low-carbon mining, energy and processing.

SACOME members advise that energy reliability and affordability is of paramount importance and a first-order priority.

SACOME members have emphasised the importance of energy competitiveness, recognising that South Australia continues to have among the highest average electricity costs in the nation. This operates as a jurisdictional disadvantage, impacting project investment, development and operating costs.

Development of existing and new gas supply must continue to be a focus, recognising its importance as an input to electricity generation, firming, smelting and manufacturing has been strongly emphasised.

Bringing new supply online is seen as critical, with approval, Native Title and land access agreement timeframes identified as delaying factors. Ensuring that gas prices are cost-competitive remains a key issue for industry.

A streamlined regulatory process and stable fiscal regime that encourages continued investment into operational assets and doesn't adversely affect existing investments as they naturally decline is essential.

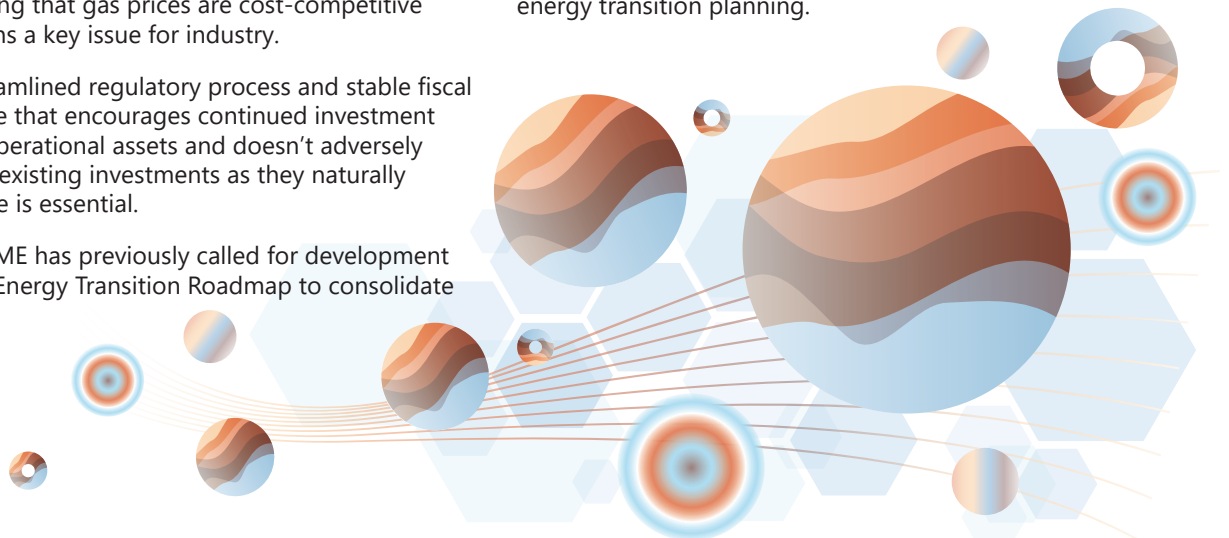
SACOME has previously called for development of an Energy Transition Roadmap to consolidate

energy transition challenges across the whole of the South Australian economy; and set out measures to mitigate cost and operational risk for heavy industry while assisting the shift toward net-zero.

SACOME reiterates that clear, staged transition planning is needed to improve energy reliability and affordability; and to position the South Australian resources sector as a national leader in low-carbon mining, energy and processing.

Industry-government collaboration must be central to this process.

Industry roundtables are a proven vehicle for such dialogue and SACOME suggests that either the Energy Resources Summit, or a dedicated forum is tasked with progressing this work. SACOME calls for funding to be made available to the Department of Energy & Mining to facilitate energy transition planning.



Resources Sector Infrastructure Corridors

Unlocking South Australia's abundant resource reserves requires infrastructure networks that link remote locations to domestic and global supply chains.

The cost and complexity of constructing infrastructure is a continued barrier to sector growth. SACOME calls for work to define and declare infrastructure corridors for enabling utilities and transport.

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Members have also highlighted the importance of regional and remote roads, recognising the role they play in the transport and logistics chain. Continuing to ensure that they are both maintained and integrated into corridor planning has been identified as a priority.

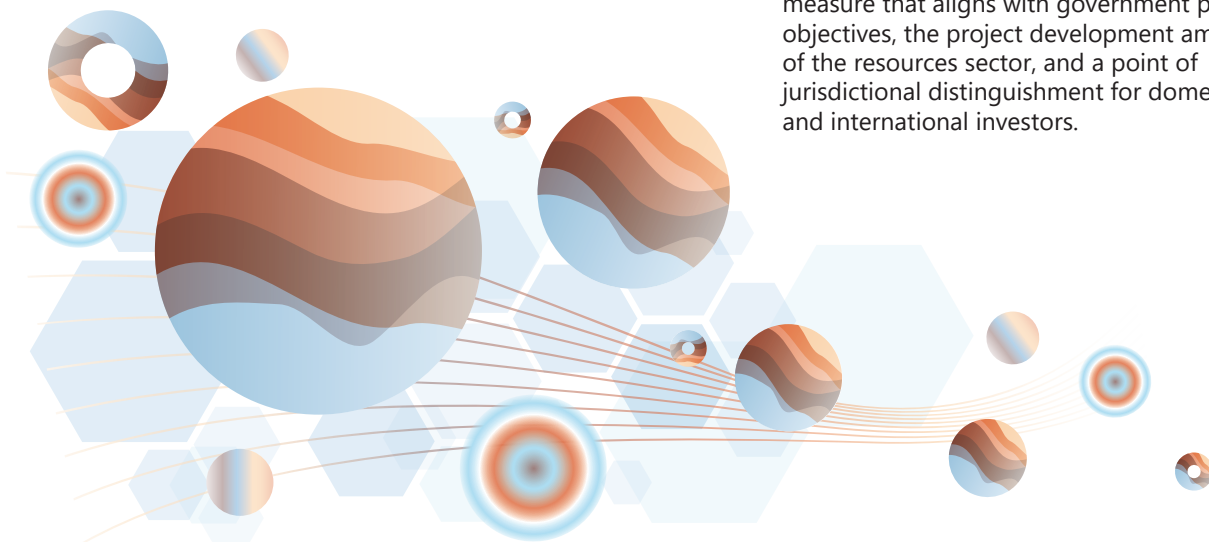
The Resources Sector Infrastructure Corridors initiative seeks to better enable resources project development through providing industry with an expedited and de-risked project development pathway.

Government has unique authority to resolve approvals, land access and logistics issues and SACOME welcomes establishment of the Office of the Coordinator General through the State Development Coordination & Facilitation Act 2025 as a mechanism to enable faster project development timeframes.

Over the coming electoral term, SACOME calls for prioritisation of work to define and declare infrastructure corridors and link them to key resources provinces, energy projects, processing locations and points of export across the state.

This work additionally creates a template for ongoing use, allowing for systematic deployment of new corridors and linkages to existing corridors in line with industry development goals.

Once established, these corridors offer South Australia a powerful investment attraction measure that aligns with government policy objectives, the project development ambitions of the resources sector, and a point of jurisdictional distinguishment for domestic and international investors.





Critical Minerals & Metals Supply Chain Development

SACOME acknowledges the significant momentum at Federal and State level for the development of critical minerals and metals supply to meet both energy transition, advanced manufacturing and defence sector supply chain demand, and economic growth and security objectives.

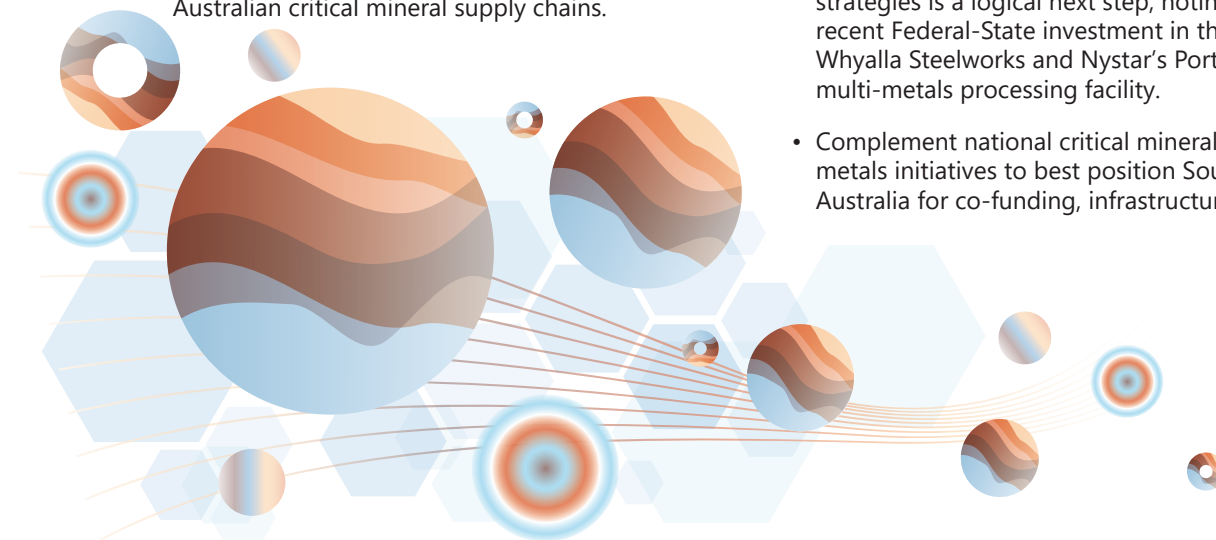
Federal and State policy alignment, together with funding mechanisms present a window of opportunity to catalyse development of South Australian critical mineral supply chains.

SACOME acknowledges the significant momentum at Federal and State level for development of critical minerals and metals supply to meet decarbonisation, energy transition and green industry transformation goals.

Federal and State policy alignment, coupled with funding made available through mechanisms like *Future Made in Australia*, the *State Prosperity Project*, the national *Critical Minerals Strategic Reserve* and the \$2billion *US-Australia Critical Minerals Framework* present a window of opportunity to catalyse development of South Australian critical mineral supply chains.

SACOME calls for development of a Critical Minerals & Metals Supply Chain Strategy to:

- Coordinate development of South Australia's endowment of critical minerals and metals, including: copper, magnetite, rare earths, cobalt, lithium, graphite and kaolin.
- Grow local refining, processing, and manufacturing to capture more value within the state. Linking South Australian smelting and manufacturing capability with national strategies is a logical next step, noting recent Federal-State investment in the Whyalla Steelworks and Nystar's Port Pirie multi-metals processing facility.
- Complement national critical minerals and metals initiatives to best position South Australia for co-funding, infrastructure





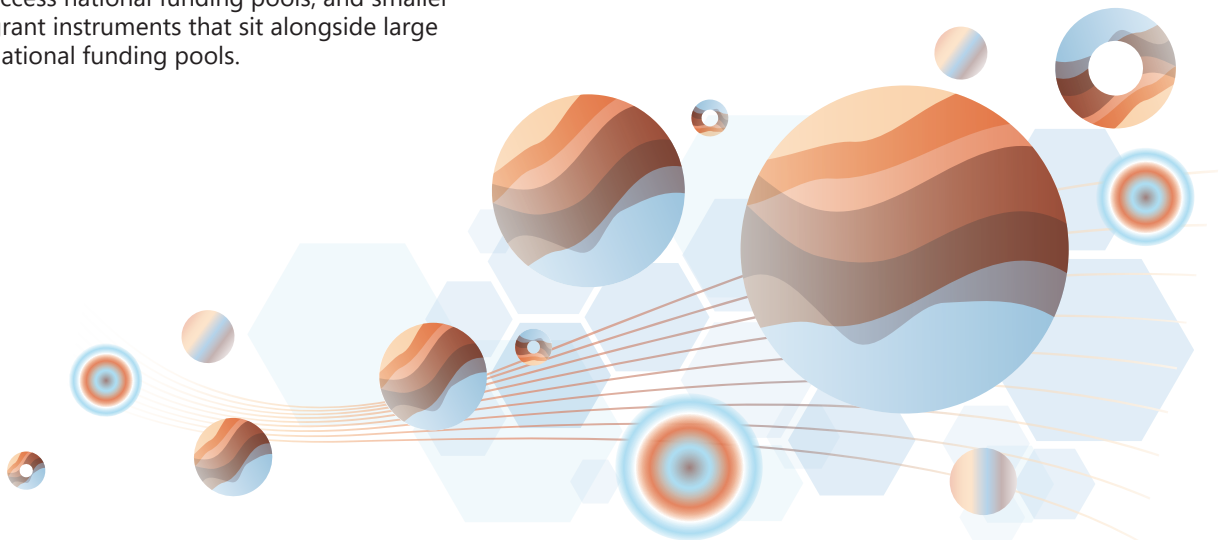
investment, and trade support; and ensure that South Australian critical minerals and metals are positioned for use in the energy transition process.

- Grow sovereign capability and capacity, the current geopolitical environment and importance of sovereign capability; and the need to decarbonise and transform aged manufacturing and smelting assets in the Upper Spencer Gulf.
- Coordinate government-industry activity to access national funding pools, and smaller grant instruments that sit alongside large national funding pools.

MECHANISMS THAT INCLUDE

\$2 BILLION
US-AUSTRALIA CRITICAL
MINERALS FRAMEWORK

**PRESENTS OPPORTUNITY TO
CATALYSE DEVELOPMENT OF
SA CRITICAL MINERAL
SUPPLY CHAINS.**





Northern Water Project

SACOME reiterates the importance of the Northern Water Project, recognising significant the progress made over the last electoral term. This progress has been realised through bipartisan support for the project, coupled with strong industry-government partnership.

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Completion of the Northern Water Project will resolve a key hurdle to development of the Gawler Craton and reduce reliance on the Great Artesian Basin for industrial water.

The project is a critical enabler of copper production in South Australia; and green iron and steel production, hydrogen and associated value-added activity in the Upper Spencer Gulf and opportunities for new development elsewhere in the Far North and in greenfield provinces like the Braemar Iron Region.

SACOME acknowledges the significant investment made by industry and government since 2022, comprising \$65 million from the Australian Government via *Future Made in Australia*, \$100 million from the South Australian Government, and \$200 million from industry.

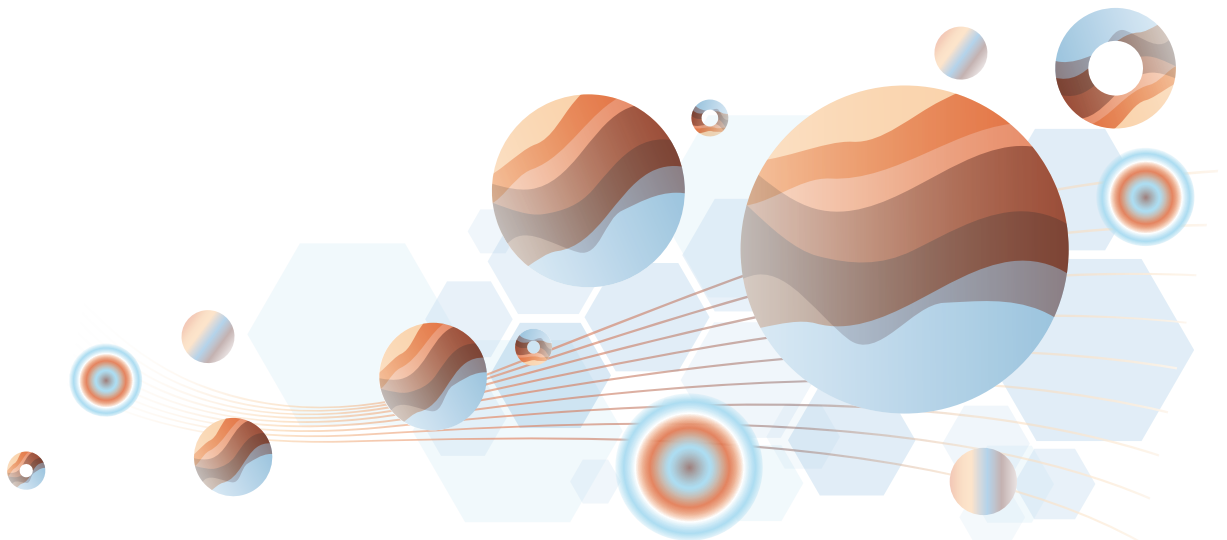
SACOME ACKNOWLEDGES

\$165 MILLION
IN JOINT
INVESTMENT

**BY THE AUSTRALIAN &
STATE GOVERNMENTS
AND \$200 MILLION
FROM INDUSTRY**

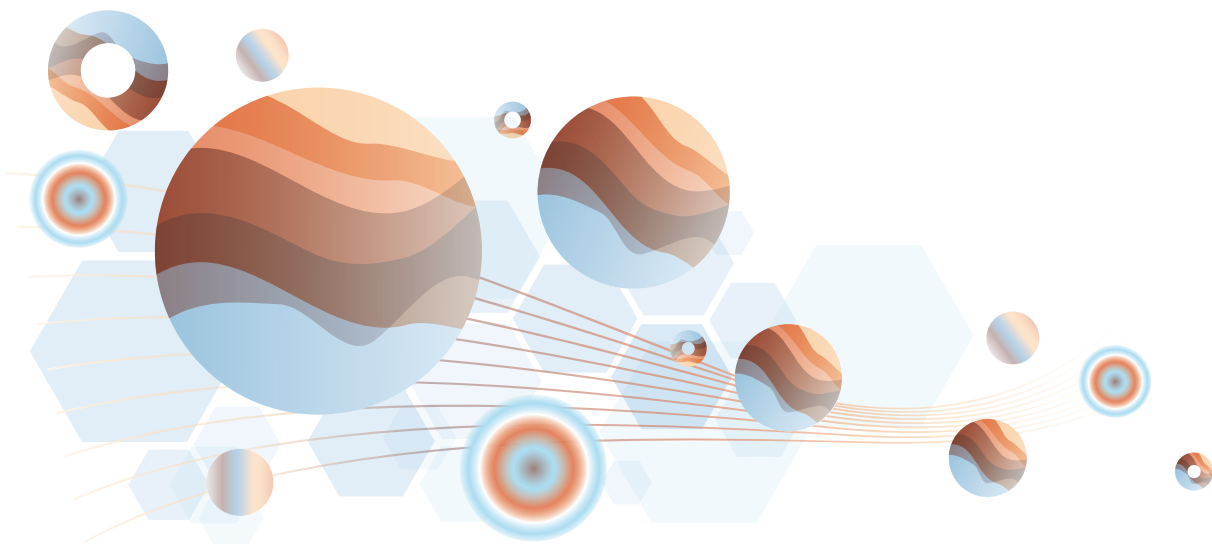
Recognising that the project is progressing to Final Investment Decision in 2026, SACOME calls for continued South Australian Government support and remains committed to working in partnership with the Australian Government, South Australian Government and member companies in progressing this nationally significant infrastructure project.

Ensuring completion of the Northern Water Project remains a key priority for SACOME.



SACOME reiterates the importance of consistent, concerted effort to realising the growth of the South Australian resources sector and transformation of the state's economy.

This is consistent with the shared vision of SACOME's member companies and government for the accelerated advancement of the South Australian resources sector, attracting investment and delivering sustainable economic prosperity for SACOME's members and the state.



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