

## BHP's Economic Contribution to South Australia

The resources sector is the economic powerhouse of South Australia, contributing \$5.9 billion in direct and indirect spending and accounting for \$5.7 billion of the State's exports.

In simple terms \$1 in every \$20 of the State's economy and 50% of the State's exports.

SACOME welcomes BHP's release of its economic contribution figures for the 2021 financial year, showing the significant financial impact of BHP's operations in South Australia.

This announcement is further proof that the resources sector underpins South Australia's economy and continues to contribute to a rise in living standards, the development of infrastructure and the broader prosperity of our State.

BHP's Olympic Dam Mine in the State's mineral rich Gawler Craton is a significant contributor to the sector's impressive outputs. It is an important intergenerational asset and the world's fourth largest copper deposit.

Employing more than 30% of the sector's direct and indirect workforce; accounting for almost 60% of the sector's purchases of goods and services; and contributing to 23% of the sector's royalties to the State Government, BHP's economic contribution is unrivalled.

BHP's Olympic Dam is the beating economic heart of our State, helping to fund essential infrastructure, schools, roads and hospitals while building more sustainable regional communities. In this respect, a mine such as Olympic Dam is as important to metropolitan Adelaide as it is to the regions.

Our state was built on copper – its discovery almost 200 years ago saved the struggling colony. Today, operations such as Olympic Dam are providing the copper which is critical to our technological future and helping us to push the boundaries of science.

In SA, scientists are using copper to better [diagnose and treat cancers](#) and its use in advanced electronics is transforming our world.

Rebecca Knol, SACOME CEO said "BHP's economic contribution to South Australia demonstrates the importance of the Olympic Dam Mine to South Australia and reinforces that the resources sector is the key pillar of the South Australian economy.

Combined with [South Australia's recent record export figures](#) and [SACOME's Economic Contribution Study](#), BHP's economic contribution data sends a clear message to every school leaver, apprentice, university graduate or professional looking for a change, that rewarding, well-paid jobs are available.

SACOME's recently launched [Unearth your future](#) campaign provides clear employment pathways for anyone looking to work in the resources sector.

Our message is: whatever your background, whatever your interests, there is a career waiting for you".

BHP's Economic Contribution to South Australia:

- o Total payments to governments – **A\$136 million**
- o Royalties – **A\$102 million**
- o Employees and contractors – **7,788**
- o Total spend on suppliers – **A\$1 billion**
- o Suppliers engaged directly by BHP - **265**

#### **Media contacts:**

Rebecca Knol, CEO SACOME, 0409 012 007

#### **About SACOME**

The South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy is the peak industry association representing companies with interests and connections to the South Australian resources and energy sector.

Date: 9 September 2021