

\$15 Million Injection to Northern Water Project backed by Industry Commitment

Today's joint State and Commonwealth funding announcement of \$15 million and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the South Australian Government, BHP and OZ Minerals to progress scoping work marks an important milestone for development of the Northern South Australia Productive Water Security Project ('Northern Water Project').

The South Australian Chamber of Mines & Energy (SACOME) congratulates the Marshall Government on proactively working with the resources sector to progress this major state economic development initiative.

The signing of this MOU by BHP & OZ Minerals is a strong statement of commitment by one of South Australia's key industry sectors.

The Northern Water Project was submitted to government by SACOME in May 2020 as a post-COVID economic recovery initiative, accompanied by two years of concerted advocacy.

The project aims to resolve a long-standing roadblock to the State's economic development through the construction of a new desalination plant and delivery of sustainable water to the Gawler Craton – a globally significant mineral province

It is enormously encouraging that the South Australian Government has adopted this multi-generational project and is committed to the difficult task of state development.

The work being undertaken now will pay dividends for future generations.

SACOME now call on the opposition to provide bipartisan support for this investment commitment.

SACOME CEO, Rebecca Knol said:

"SACOME welcomes today's joint funding commitment of \$15 million by the State and Commonwealth Governments alongside signing of an industry MOU as an important milestone in development of the Northern Water Project".

"The Northern Water Project is nation-building in scope, but only through concerted, collaborative effort will it be realised."

“It can provide water to the Upper Spencer Gulf for green steel and hydrogen production, reduce reliance on the Great Artesian Basin and Murray River, and can support defence and space sector activity at Woomera”.

“SACOME congratulates the State and Federal Governments, BHP and OZ Minerals for their collective commitment to South Australia’s growth.”

“SACOME acknowledges the hard work done by BHP and OZ Minerals, the Marshall Government, Infrastructure SA and other government departments in laying the groundwork for today’s announcement”.

“SACOME reiterates its calls for continued, bipartisan support of this critical state development initiative”.

Further information on the Northern Water Project:

SACOME’s 2022 Pre-Election media release for the Northern Water Project is available [here](#).

SACOME’s *Resources Sector 2022 Pre-Election Priorities* document is available [here](#).

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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.