

Continued support for Northern Water Project a key Election Priority

The South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME) calls for bipartisan support for the Northern South Australia Productive Water Security Project, recognising its importance as a nationally significant economic development opportunity.

The Northern Water Project is a SACOME-driven initiative, originating as a response to the call by the South Australian Government in early 2020 for post-COVID pandemic economic recovery project proposals.

SACOME's unwavering advocacy for strategic economic development initiatives was responsible for the Northern Water Project being widely embraced by the South Australian Government.

The government recognised the Northern Water Project's potential and funding for detailed business case development was allocated in the 2021-22 State Budget.

This potential was further reinforced when, through the efforts of Infrastructure SA, the Project was placed on the Infrastructure Australia Priority List in 2021, gaining national prominence.

"This is unquestionably a state and nation-building project and SACOME is proud to have championed the Northern Water Project" says SACOME Chief Executive Rebecca Knol.

"International demand for copper is exploding due to its use in renewable technologies. South Australia has the potential to help meet this global demand, but we can't do it without water".

A secure, sustainable, and efficient water supply is key to unlocking mining activity in the Gawler Craton and the State's Far North. Without new water sources, the State Government cannot realise its goal of producing one million tonnes of copper per annum by 2030.

The Northern Water Project presents an opportunity to reduce strain on the Great Artesian Basin and the Murray River.

This project could also support emerging industries such as green steel and hydrogen production in South Australia's Iron Triangle, and benefit defence and space activity at Woomera.

The proposal isn't radical. But it is ambitious.

Comprising a new desalination plant located in the Spencer Gulf combined with hundreds of kilometres of pipeline, the Northern Water Project is a well-understood engineering exercise.

Early cost estimates in the billions of dollars are - on the surface - daunting. But the resulting industry access agreements, increased investment and future royalties along with downstream economic growth quickly put things into perspective.

The Commonwealth Government and financiers require a detailed and credible business case to support decision making. A project of this magnitude requires long-term bipartisan commitment. It will take a decade to plan and construct. And that means several cycles of State and Federal governments.

“This is why SACOME are calling for a bipartisan commitment to advance business case development and fast-track conversations with the Federal Government to secure funding.”

“Only through concerted, collaborative effort will we bring this project to fruition.”

“This is a truly transformative opportunity for South Australia.”

View SACOME’s Opinion Piece on the Northern Water Project [here](#).

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

View SACOME’s Resources Sector 2022 Election dedicated webpage [here](#).

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.