

Date: 22 February 2024

The Northern Water Project – big, bold, and transformative for SA

The South Australian Chamber of Mines & Energy (SACOME) welcomes today's confirmation from the Malinauskas State Government that the Northern Water Project is key to their vision for a 'smart, sustainable, and inclusive economy'.

Brought to life by SACOME in response to former Premier Marshall's call for post-COVID economic recovery initiatives, it has remained [SACOME's number one advocacy priority](#)¹ to Government for the past four years.

SACOME specifically called for \$200 million in early works funding to support the planning and assessment required ahead of the Final Investment Decision (FID) and welcome this commitment.

This multi-billion dollar Project is a critical enabler to the growth of the South Australian resources sector through the construction of a new desalination plant and the delivery of sustainable commercial water to the Gawler Craton – South Australia's world-class mineral province.

This Project supports the State Government's ambition for the green industrialisation of our economy: green iron, steel and hydrogen production, as well as directly enabling copper production at the volumes needed for the transition to Net Zero.

In addition to the green industrial opportunities, the Project has the potential to support defence and space activity at Woomera and reduce reliance on the Great Artesian Basin and the River Murray.

Multiple stakeholders will benefit from this nationally significant Project.

The Government forecasts that 800 construction jobs will be created, in addition to 4,200 ongoing jobs once operational.

SACOME acknowledges the long-standing advocacy of our members, including BHP and previously OZ Minerals, and the bipartisan funding support afforded this Project.

¹ 2024 Policy Priorities, SACOME, Uploaded 19 February 2024.

<https://www.sacome.org.au/uploads/1/1/3/2/113283509/sacome_priorities_2024.pdf>

Quotes attributable to SACOME CEO, Rebecca Knol:

“The Northern Water Project has the potential to transform the South Australian economy and revitalise our regional communities in the Upper Spencer Gulf.

“SACOME and its members are proud to have brought this big, bold, and transformative Project to Government, that can sustain thousands of green jobs.

“Funding announcements made today will support the Government’s ambition of green iron, steel and hydrogen production, as well as increased copper production at the scale needed for the transition to Net Zero.

“The Northern Water Project is not just a game-changer for the resources sector but can benefit other future-focussed industries in South Australia, such as defence and space.

“On behalf of the resources sector, and ahead of FID, SACOME acknowledges the bipartisan prioritisation and funding for this Project at both the State and Commonwealth levels.”

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About SACOME

The [South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy](#) is the leading industry association representing companies with interests and connections to the South Australian resources and energy sector.