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Federal Budget brings welcome investment in nation-building

The South Australian Chamber of Mining and Energy (SACOME) welcomes the Federal Government's Budget commitment of \$65M for the Northern Water Project in South Australia.

SACOME has long advocated for the Northern Water Project which involves the construction of a new desalination plant at Cape Hardy and the delivery of sustainable water via a high-capacity pipeline to the Gawler Craton, South Australia's world-class mineral province.

Once built, the Northern Water Project will be Australia's third largest seawater desalination plant and longest freshwater supply pipeline.

This multi-billion-dollar project is a critical enabler to the growth of the South Australian resources sector and supports the State Government's ambition for the green industrialisation of the economy: the production of green iron, steel and hydrogen, and as an enabler of copper production to Net Zero.

The Northern Water Project is expected to create 800 construction jobs, and once built, employ over 4200 people. It has the potential to support defence and space activity in Woomera, reduce reliance on the Great Artesian Basin and the River Murray, and revitalise regional communities in the Upper Spencer Gulf.

The \$65M investment from the Federal Government will support planning and assessment required ahead of the project's Final Investment Decision (FID), including consultations with Traditional Owners, landholders, and the community; comprehensive evaluation of environmental, engineering and economic aspects of the project; and commercial negotiations for project delivery and water purchase.

Today's Budget allocation builds on the initial \$5M funding provided by the Federal Government to build the business case for the Northern Water Project – a testimony to the Commonwealth's commitment to this national transformative infrastructure project.

Quote attributable to SACOME CEO Rebecca Knol:

"SACOME, in collaboration with its member companies, proposed the Northern Water Project in 2020 as a response to the South Australian Government's calls for post-COVID economic stimulus initiatives.

“SACOME and its members have long championed the Northern Water Project and are delighted that the Federal Government recognises the significance and economic benefits of this project - not only for South Australia - but for the nation through the allocation of \$65M as part of the Future Made in Australia initiative.

“Water is critical to the development of resources projects and today’s investment by the Albanese Government brings us one step closer to unlocking South Australia’s copper-rich Gawler Craton.

“The Northern Water Project will also underpin green steel and hydrogen production in Whyalla, support Defence activities in the Woomera Prohibited Area, and bolster water supply to communities in the Upper Spencer Gulf.

“We are committed to working with government stakeholders, industry partners and local communities to bring the Northern Water Project to life.”

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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.