

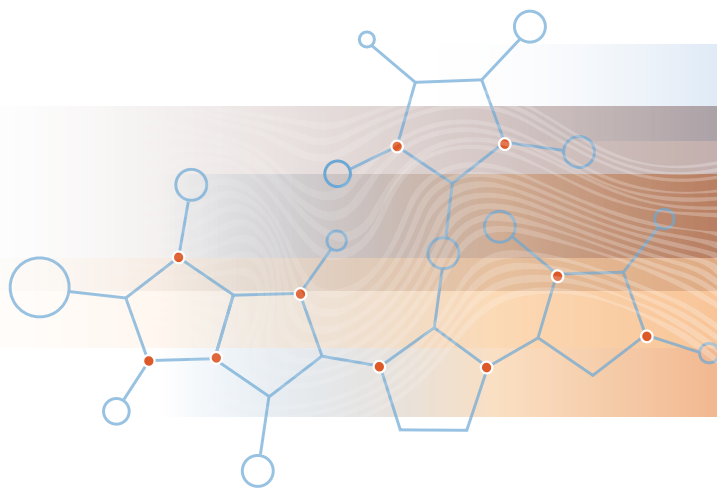
South  
Australian  
Chamber  
Of  
Mines &  
Energy

# SACOME



2024  
**Priorities**

Informed by close consultation with our member companies, the South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy's 2024 Priorities set out the actions and bipartisan policy commitments sought by the sector.



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# CEO's Foreword



2024 marks SACOME's 45th year of operation. As the organisation edges ever-closer to half a century of representation and advocacy on behalf of the South Australian resources sector, SACOME's policy priorities continue to call for measures that will enable transformative economic development in this State.

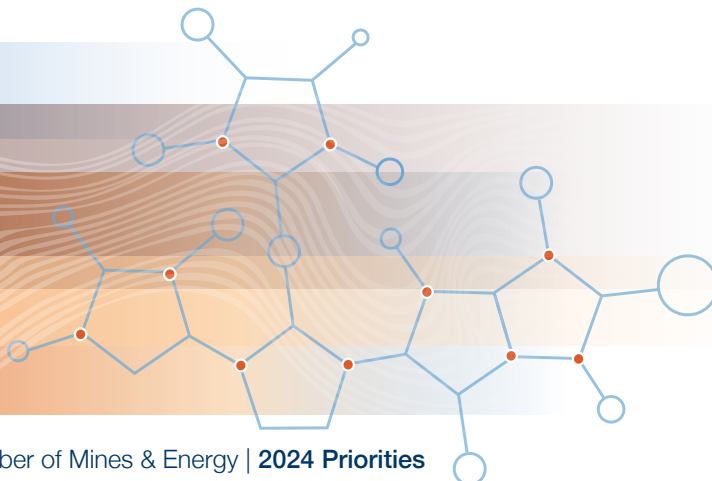
As SACOME embarks upon the process of developing a new strategic plan to guide it over the next five years, a reflection on the past five years shows a strong record of effective advocacy for our member companies.

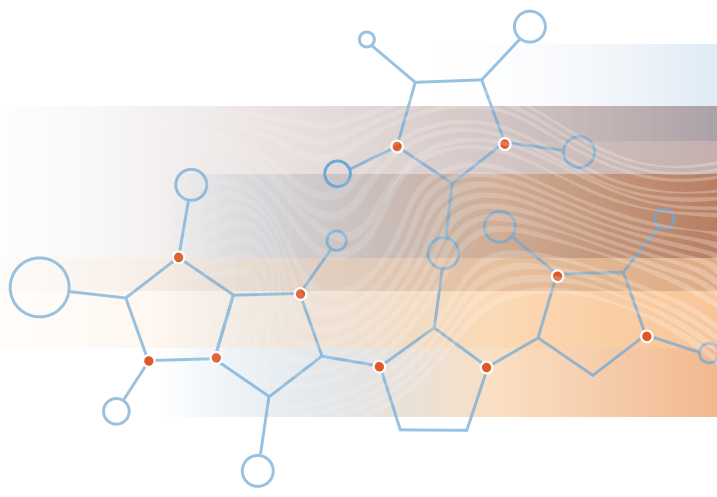
During the COVID-19 pandemic, SACOME played a central role as the point of liaison and coordination between government and industry. Working closely with our member companies we saw the South Australian resources sector continue to operate during a time where many sectors lay dormant.

In so doing, the resources sector once again demonstrated its ability to quickly respond to and plan for risk, along with its importance to the South Australian and national economies.

Over the last five years SACOME has resolutely pursued a campaign of infrastructure investment. This saw greater levels of investment in regional and remote infrastructure, the construction of the Joy Baluch Bridge, upgrade of the Strezlecki Track and other regional roads, and significant progress on the Northern Water Project.

SACOME has continuously advocated for measures that remove the long-standing hurdles to investment in South Australian resources projects – water, power and the path to market.





While change of this nature comes slowly, SACOME has made significant headway in recent years and is recognised by policy makers as a constructive voice for positive change.

This constructive and positive voice was exemplified during the fractious Mining Act reforms of 2020 and 2021, where SACOME provided a respectful and balanced counter argument to the push for restrictive land access measures, including a landholder right to veto in South Australia.

More recently our voice has shaped the outcomes of the Safeguard Mechanism Reforms, led to the early development of an economic heatmap and associated infrastructure corridor framework, and influenced numerous state-based strategies.

During the past five years, SACOME has invested in multi-year media campaigns that promote the sector and the job opportunities it provides, with the success of these campaigns reflected in annual community polling.

In addition, SACOME has partnered with government and industry to deliver scholarship opportunities and is well advanced in introducing a STEM Digital Education Pilot to South Australian schools in 2024.

SACOME has also introduced a regular economic evaluation of member companies to determine their contribution to the State's economy through jobs, wages and expenditure. This has delivered a unique snapshot of SA's largest export industry.

While 2024 will see SACOME continuing to argue for 'first principles' on behalf of our members, it is also a time of major transition. The challenge of decarbonisation demands whole-scale adaptation for operators and governments alike.

The transition to 'green energy' and the increasingly decentralised nature of the State's energy system creates financial, operational and logistical challenges and opportunities for heavy industry.

We also see new opportunities emerging for critical minerals, nuclear, hydrogen and CO<sub>2</sub> production in South Australia.

SACOME will continue to build on its strong record of policy, advocacy and promotion on behalf of member companies in 2024, recognising that the South Australian resources sector is a key driver of the State's economy and a force for positive change.

**Rebecca Knol**  
**SACOME CEO**

The transition to 'green energy' and the increasingly decentralised nature of the State's energy system creates financial, operational and logistical challenges and opportunities for heavy industry.

# The South Australian Resources Sector

SACOME is the leading industry association representing the resources and energy sector. The South Australian resources sector is a powerhouse of the State's economy.

SACOME analysed the expenditure patterns of 15 major operating member companies throughout 2021/22 in its *Economic Contribution Study*.

The 15 participating companies are some of the most significant industrial entities in South Australia, namely: Adbri, Adchem, Beach Energy, BHP, Boss Energy, Cooper Energy, FMG Resources, Nyrstar Port Pirie, OZ Minerals, Rex Minerals, Santos, and SIMEC Mining.

These member companies contributed \$10.7 billion in direct and indirect spending to South Australia, equivalent to 8.3% of Gross State Product, or one dollar in every twelve.

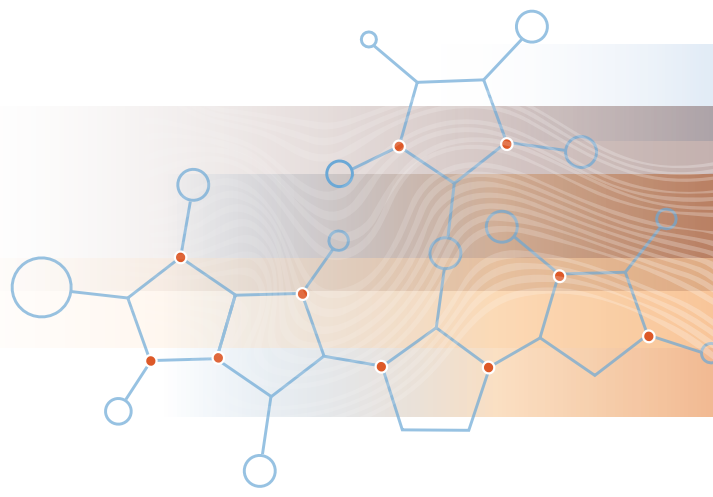
These companies also supported 1 in 14 South Australian jobs – directly employing over 7,800 people full-time and supporting the employment of over 42,000 people full-time. Those directly employed received \$1 billion, representing an



**8.3%**  
OF SA'S GSP OR  
**\$1 IN EVERY \$12**

average salary of \$133,672 per annum; significantly higher than the average South Australian salary of \$77,800 per annum.

Direct spending by these member companies made up \$3.75 billion worth of purchases of goods and services from over 2,851 local businesses. They paid \$431 million to the State Government in royalties, stamp duty, payroll tax, and land tax, and provided \$14.7 million to 197 different community organisations, funding health, education, arts, sporting groups, and Indigenous communities.



# Supporting the Resources Sector and the State

In 2024, SACOME continues to advocate for priorities that resolve long-standing impediments to development of the South Australian resources sector, in addition to calling for action on important emerging priorities.

Noting that resources projects can often take decades to reach production, SACOME reiterates its calls for policy continuity in relation to transformative economic development and infrastructure initiatives.

Consistent, concerted effort is fundamental to realising growth of the resources sector and transformation of the State's economy at the scale envisaged by both SACOME's member companies and the South Australian Government.

Key to this outcome is ongoing collaboration between industry and government, recognising that continuing engagement on regulatory and policy matters is crucial to achieving our shared objectives, including:

- Ensuring the orderly transformation and decarbonisation of the resources sector in a rapidly changing energy system;
- Continued investment in critical enabling infrastructure;
- Development and maturation of the State's the nascent 'green energy' industry, including hydrogen production in the Upper Spencer Gulf;
- Development of a world-class copper province in the Gawler Craton;
- The manufacturing of 'green steel' at Whyalla; and
- Positioning South Australia as a supplier of critical minerals at a time of growing demand.

As in previous years, SACOME will maintain its focus on improving regulatory outcomes and addressing skills shortages. Importantly, SACOME will continue to advance the resources sector as one of choice for school leavers, university graduates and young professionals.

On behalf of its members, SACOME remains committed to working with all stakeholders for the continued development of the South Australian resources sector and the economic, social and environmental benefit of the State.

# 2024 Priorities

## **SACOME's 2024 Priorities align with the strategic advocacy pillars of:**

- State Economic Development
- Energy
- Infrastructure
- Legislation & Regulation

The priorities also align with SACOME's 2024 Vision which sets out seven goals to secure the future prosperity and success of the South Australian resources sector:

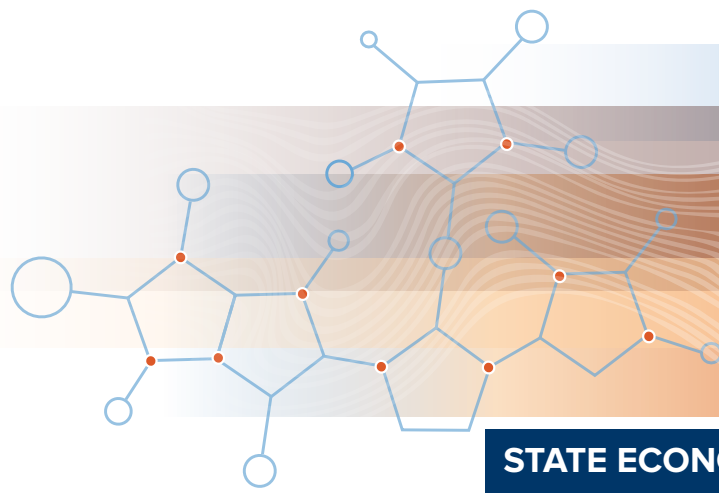
- Recognition as an industry of the future
- Strong support of both government & community
- Sector of choice for employment
- Positive impact and support for regional communities
- Social and environmental responsibility
- Profitable and resilient
- Recognised contributor to the State.

## **SACOME's policy and advocacy initiatives for 2024 are:**

- Northern Water Project
- Resources Sector Heatmap & Infrastructure Corridors
- Critical Minerals Acceleration
- South Australian CO<sub>2</sub> Industry Development
- Industrial Transition and Decarbonisation
- Energy Transition Roadmap
- Carbon Abatement Technologies
- Nuclear Readiness
- Rail Incentives
- Regional and Remote Road Maintenance
- Digital Infrastructure Taskforce
- Priority Transmission Infrastructure
- Best Practice Regulatory Framework







SACOME calls for funding commitments over the 2024-25 period that will drive state economic development and unlock growth consistent with the South Australian Government’s vision for a ‘smart, sustainable, and inclusive’ economy.

#### SACOME 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

## Northern Water Project

SACOME reiterates its strong support for the Northern Water Project and calls for continued effort by the South Australian Government to bring it to development.

The Northern Water Project remains a critical enabler to growth of the South Australian resources sector and the South Australian Government’s hydrogen and green industry transition goals.

SACOME welcomes the strong support shown to date by the Commonwealth and State Governments, including the \$100 million in equity contribution funding that formed part of the 2023 State Budget.

SACOME notes that the final decision to proceed with construction of the Northern Water Project will rely on gaining required project approvals and agreements, encompassing extended consultation with traditional owners, landholders, and the community; comprehensive evaluation of environmental, engineering, and economic

aspects of the project; and commercial negotiation for project delivery and water purchase. SACOME has worked collaboratively with the South Australian Government and its member companies to progress the Northern Water Project since its inception in 2020. SACOME reiterates its support for this project as a truly transformative economic development measure in the strongest terms.

Completion of the Northern Water Project achieves the supply of water as an input to industrial process in the Far North, facilitates further development of the Gawler Craton, plays a critical role in production of green steel and hydrogen in the Upper Spencer Gulf and provides a new source of water for the Eastern Eyre Peninsula.

Ensuring that the Northern Water Project progresses to completion remains a key priority for SACOME in 2024.

**SUPPORTED BY**  
**\$100 MILLION**  
**EQUITY CONTRIBUTION**  
2023 STATE BUDGET

## SACOME 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Resources Sector Heatmap & Infrastructure Corridors

SACOME calls for the completion and implementation of the South Australian Resources Sector Economic Heatmap and Resources Infrastructure Corridors initiatives.

SACOME continues to call for the development of a Resources Sector Economic Heatmap to provide government, industry and investors with a consolidated understanding of the value of South Australia's resources provinces and facilitate greater project investment across the State.

SACOME promotes the Heatmap as a tool for informed decision making by government and industry through the consolidation of requisite knowledge, including:

- The potential economic value of a province to the State;
- The investment required to build a path to market for identified provinces;
- What actions the State could take to resolve infrastructure-related barriers to investment;
- Opportunities to leverage Commonwealth funding and prioritisation;
- The timeframes necessary for implementing a solution; and
- The opportunity cost of doing nothing.

The Resources Sector Heatmap initiative is itself informed by the South Australian Government's 2014 Regional Mining Infrastructure Plan (RMIP) and, like the RMIP, aims to consolidate the understanding of project opportunities and requirements across South Australia's resources provinces to catalyse investment and overcome barriers to project development.

SACOME notes that the Department for Infrastructure & Transport (DIT) commenced work on a 'Resources Sector Heatmap' which was expected to be completed in 2023 but which now has stalled.

SACOME has been advised by the South Australian Government that the Heatmap is considered to be of limited utility as it only considers the present-day value of provinces and has been mapped at a 'Statistical Area-2' or community level rather than a provinces level, thus limiting its utility for strategic 'province level' planning.

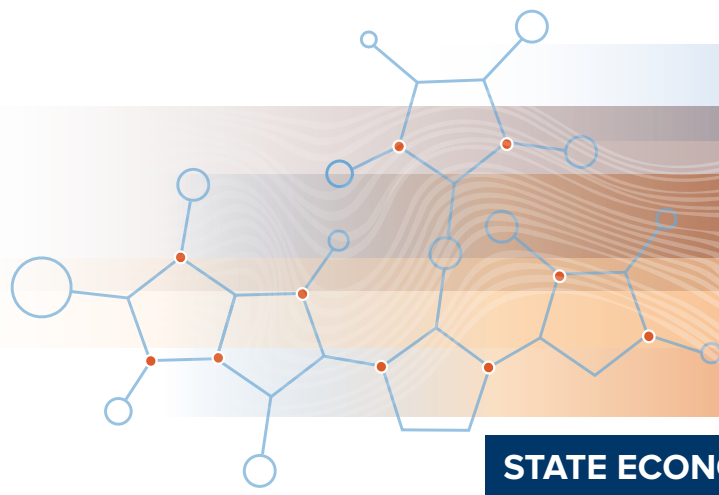
SACOME submits that the Heatmap should be finalised in line with its original intent for use as a vehicle to inform strategic decision-making at a province level and as an investment attraction tool for the State.

Dovetailing with the Resources Sector Economic Heatmap, SACOME also calls on the State Government to finalise development of the 'Resources Infrastructure Corridors' initiative.

SACOME continues to advocate for implementation of the Infrastructure Corridors initiative as an infrastructure investment attraction tool by identifying and establishing infrastructure project pathways to major South Australian resources provinces.

This includes holistically resolving land access, approvals and logistics issues and operating as a jurisdictional advantage by providing operators with a de-risked and expedited path to project development.

Once implemented, it will provide the State with a competitive advantage by reducing the time and cost associated with developing resources projects in South Australia.



SACOME 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Critical Minerals Acceleration

SACOME calls for completion of a Critical Minerals to Metals Strategy and the provisioning of \$50 million as an initial investment in the proposed Critical Minerals Development Fund.

This would capture the full value chain of South Australia's resources and act as a jurisdictional advantage in accelerating development of critical minerals projects in South Australia.

SACOME also calls for an initial investment of \$50 million for a Critical Minerals Development Fund to better leverage South Australia's existing minerals processing capacity.

This investment could catalyse projects necessary to support the energy transition and decarbonisation of the State's heavy industry.

Global demand for critical minerals will continue to increase. With its abundance of critical mineral wealth, including 80% of Australia's battery-grade graphite resources and large quantities of lithium, cobalt, manganese, and nickel, this represents a significant untapped opportunity for South Australia.

The Federal Government's Critical Minerals Strategy and funding of rare earths and battery projects as part of its \$4 billion Critical Minerals Facility provides a window for South Australia to capitalise on national impetus.

In the same way that the South Australian Government's Plan for Accelerating Exploration (PACE) catalysed mineral and gas exploration, SACOME submits that a Critical Minerals to Metal Strategy and associated Development Fund would assist in accelerating critical minerals projects and provide jurisdictional advantage to South Australia.

**SA HAS ABUNDANT  
CRITICAL MINERALS INCLUDING  
80%  
OF AUSTRALIA'S BATTERY-GRADE  
GRAPHITE RESOURCES**

## SACOME 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

# South Australian CO<sub>2</sub> Industry Development

SACOME calls on the Government to investigate appropriate financial supports for the development of a local CO<sub>2</sub> industry in South Australia.

Disruptions to food and industrial-grade CO<sub>2</sub> supplies are impacting food and beverage industries, including major wineries, breweries, and soft drink suppliers. Shortages are currently being experienced due to plant shutdowns and exposure to high import prices.

This will be exacerbated over the next three years with the staged shutdown of Torrens Island Power Station through to June 2026, as it provides the main source of food-grade CO<sub>2</sub> in South Australia from its waste gas stream.

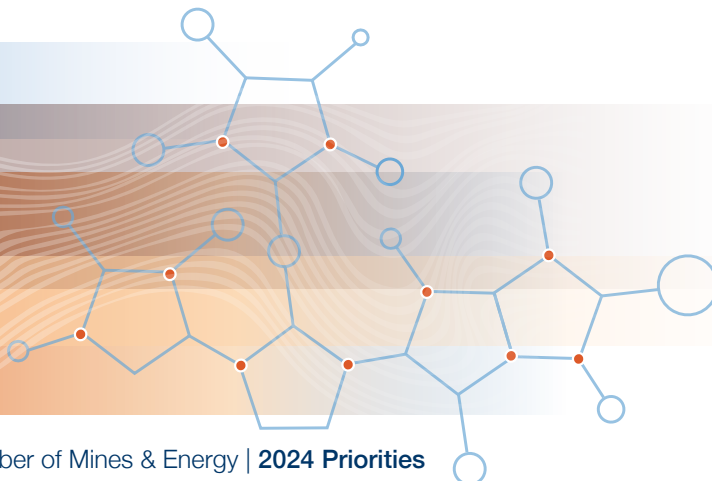
Natural sources of high-quality CO<sub>2</sub> at Nangwarry have been discovered in the southeast of South Australia, which can be processed to food and industrial grade on-site.

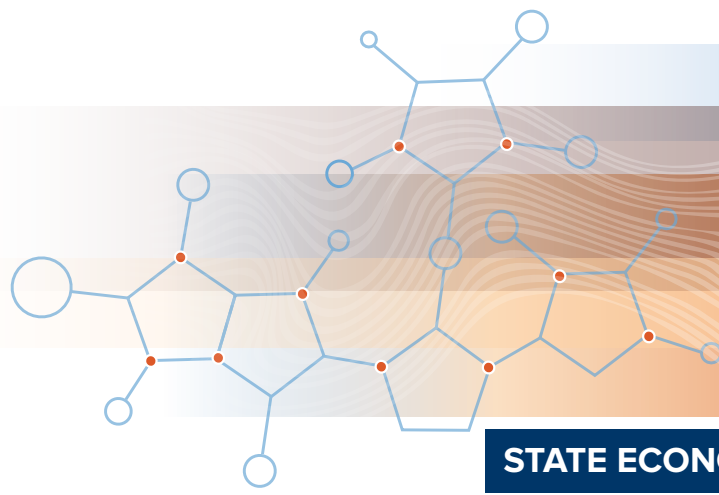
With the potential to provide over 20 years of continuous supply, the Nangwarry CO<sub>2</sub> project would provide a long-term and stable source of CO<sub>2</sub> for the South Australian food, beverage, and building industries.

In addition to industrial uses, CO<sub>2</sub> is used to cultivate algae, itself a feedstock for biofuel production, carbon sequestration, applications in transport, heating, industrial processes, and electricity generation to reduce emissions and diversify the energy mix.

It is estimated that an investment of approximately \$40 to 50 million is required for the design and construction of a fit-for-purpose 175-tonne-per-day processing plant. This would exceed the 100-150 tonne per day requirement for CO<sub>2</sub> in South Australia, accommodate future needs and provide opportunities for export.

**175-TONNE-PER-DAY  
PROCESSING PLANT REQUIRES  
\$40-\$50M  
INVESTMENT**





SACOME 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Industrial Transition and Decarbonisation

SACOME recommends that consideration be given to the broader civic infrastructure requirements of the green industrial transformation to inform ‘whole of supply chain’ infrastructure planning.

The South Australian Government has committed to the objectives of industrial transformation and decarbonisation, as set out in the South Australian Economic Statement released by the Malinauskas Government in March 2023 which aims to ‘capitalise on the green energy transition’.

SACOME member company, SIMEC Mining, has made significant investments in infrastructure to decarbonise its operations and facilitate a ‘green transition’ of its industrial activities consistent with the State’s policy agenda.

These major investments in new infrastructure, plant and equipment demonstrates the capital-intensive nature of transitioning heavy industry away from its traditional use of fossil fuels and toward renewable power and greater process efficiency.

The timeframe is a critical consideration, as the sooner green hydrogen is available for wide-scale use by industry, the sooner emissions reduction targets can be achieved. Accordingly, the timely implementation of policy measures, planning and investment decisions relevant to the hydrogen supply chain is key.

Development of civic infrastructure in Whyalla and the Upper Spencer Gulf remains an issue of importance, noting that SIMEC intends to increase its workforce by 500-600 people in the short term; and the Hydrogen Jobs Plan estimates workforce growth of an additional 5000-6000 people over a similar timeframe.

Regional growth of this scale necessitates investment in a broad range of infrastructure to support increased population.

## HYDROGEN JOBS PLAN ESTIMATES

# 5000-6000

## WORKFORCE GROWTH

## CONTEXT

# Energy

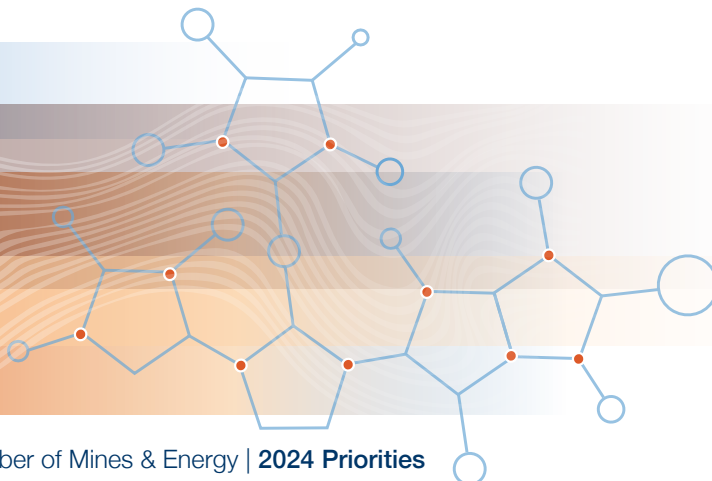
SACOME calls on the South Australian Government to focus on measures that provide certainty to industry, increase system stability, and lower costs while assisting industry in the process of decarbonisation.

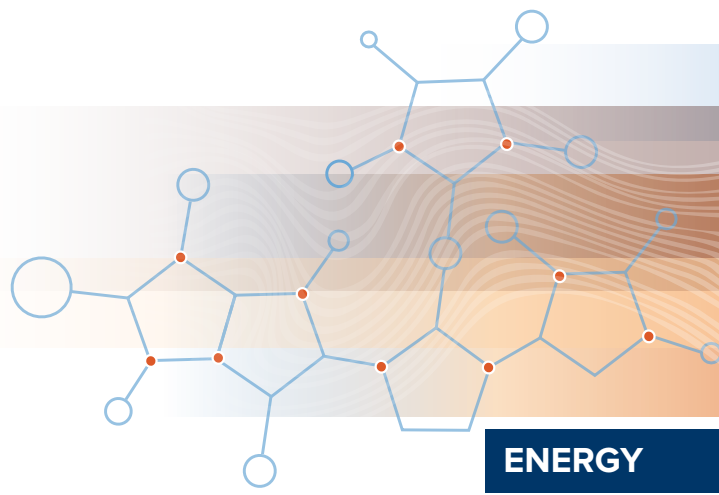
Independent analysis commissioned by SACOME in 2023 confirmed that South Australia's energy transition has cost hundreds of millions in system security costs, market interventions, infrastructure upgrades and energy transition measures since 2016, with costs continuing to escalate.

These costs continue to be disproportionately borne by industry.

Acknowledging the deeply complex nature of the energy market, coupled with the need to rapidly decarbonise the economy, SACOME continues to advocate for an Energy Transition Roadmap that accounts for the whole cost of the energy transition and minimises costs for the South Australian resources sector while allowing heavy industry to decarbonise in an orderly manner.

Affordable and reliable power remains critical to the economic viability and continued operation of commercial and industrial operators in South Australia.





ENERGY

## SACOME 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Energy Transition Roadmap

SACOME calls for the prompt development of the South Australian Government's Energy Transition White Paper and the abolition of the Retailer Energy Productivity Scheme for large industrial users.

SACOME continues to highlight the true cost of the energy transition to commercial and industrial operators and commissioned a peer-reviewed analysis regarding the cumulative costs of market interventions as part of its comprehensive response to the Government's Green Paper on the Energy Transition.

The costs of market interventions now represent 20-30% of industrial electricity bills. These market intervention costs, alongside other Government interventions, are rapidly becoming a 'cost of business crisis' for many manufacturers.

In 2022 SACOME called for establishment of an Energy Transition Advisory Board to advise the Government on the impacts of energy cost, reliability, and sustainability for industrial operators, alongside development of an Energy Transition Roadmap to provide informed strategic direction to the next phase of South Australia's energy transition.

The Malinauskas Government subsequently convened the Energy Transition Roundtable and released the Green Paper on the Energy Transition in 2023, both of which were welcomed by SACOME.

Further to the Green Paper consultation process, SACOME calls for the speedy development of the consequent Energy Transition White Paper, recognising that it is intended by the South Australian Government to be a 'foundational economic document for the remainder of the first half of the 21st Century'.

SACOME stresses that this 'foundational economic document' must be informed by detailed consultation with the resources sector.

SACOME also calls for the inclusion of a resources sector representative on the Premier's Climate Change Council (PCCC) to ensure the PCCC has full representation from industry and access to subject-matter expertise across the areas of the energy transition, industry decarbonisation and climate change.

SACOME further reiterates its calls for the abolition of the Retailer Energy Productivity Scheme (REPS) for large industrial customers, which has operated to subsidising the REPS initiatives for residential customers at the expense of industrial operators

## SACOME 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Carbon Abatement Technologies

SACOME calls on the State Government to implement policies that incentivise the development of carbon abatement technologies such as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).

Commercial CCS offers a viable pathway to reducing emissions and positions Australia to continue as a leading energy exporter and manufacturer of energy-intensive materials.

The International Energy Agency has forecast that a hundredfold increase in CCS is required between now and 2050 to achieve the world's climate goals pursuant to their Sustainable Development Scenario – from approximately 40 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> currently stored each year to 5.6 billion tonnes in 30 years.

The use of CCS will be a critical tool for hard-to-abate sectors (like cement and steel manufacturing) in offsetting their emissions while maintaining a long-term national strategic advantage.

Santos and its Joint Venture partner Beach Energy are constructing the \$200 million Moomba CCS facility, one of Australia's largest infrastructure investments in reducing carbon emissions. At full operation, the Moomba CCS facility will store 1.7 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year and is expected to be online by early 2024.

SACOME calls for CCS incentives to be afforded the same priority as hydrogen initiatives, including consideration of the impact of CCS royalties as a disincentive to greater investment in CCS.

Given the significant growth prospects from the economic and environmental imperative to decarbonise, as well as interest in CCS/ decarbonisation opportunities from trading partners including Japan and South Korea, SACOME calls for consideration by the South Australian Government of appropriate funding supports for the construction of a dedicated CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline from Moomba to Port Bonython as a means of facilitating international carbon storage.

**100x**  
INCREASE IN CCS REQUIRED  
**2024–2050**



## SACOME 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Nuclear Readiness

SACOME recommends that relevant State authorities such as InfrastructureSA and the South Australian Productivity Commission are funded to undertake analysis of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Milestones Approach and supporting guidance to ensure South Australia's readiness as part of a national nuclear program.

South Australia has been at the forefront of the energy transition nationally, with over 70% of our energy generation coming from renewable sources. However, this transition has significantly impacted the State's commercial and industrial base, with recent SACOME analysis identifying that system security costs charged by AEMO have escalated by over 200% since 2016, with no signs of this trend abating.

Whereas previously system security costs were barely a feature, commercial and industrial customers have reported these costs now represent 20-30% of their electricity bills.

SACOME has previously made submissions to the Commonwealth regarding the need to lift the country's nuclear prohibition and provide optionality to both current and future governments in meeting the nation's prospective energy needs.

Countries looking to introduce civil nuclear power are guided by the IAEA Milestones publication *Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power*, which requires approximately ten years of preparatory work prior to the first reactor coming online. Linked to this framework is an Evaluation document which the IAEA use to conduct an evaluation of a country's nuclear program.

The IAEA Milestones Approach is an internationally accepted methodology that supports a sound process for countries considering the development of a national infrastructure for nuclear power and enabling countries to "self-assess" the readiness of their programmes to move forward.

While most of this preparatory work can only be done or commissioned by the Commonwealth Government, there are several discrete roles that subnational jurisdictions can undertake.

Recognising the complexity of undertaking a regional and site-specific identification analysis, SACOME recommends that relevant State authorities - such as Infrastructure SA and the South Australian Productivity Commission - undertake analysis of the IAEA Milestones Approach and supporting guidance to ensure that the State is well informed about the process should the Federal prohibition on nuclear energy be removed.

SACOME submits that this activity would provide a holistic understanding of the economic potential of nuclear, given:

- Its benefits in stabilising the South Australian grid and providing emissions-free baseload power;
- The creation of well-paying jobs during the life of the asset, likely to be in regional communities;
- Reducing the need for more transmission lines than would otherwise be the case and promoting land use efficiency;
- South Australia's vast uranium reserves; and
- The geological stability of South Australia to safely store nuclear waste.

Such work would not only advance Australia's progress against the IAEA Milestones Framework but would be consistent with the findings of the 2016 Royal Commission that "it would be wise to facilitate a technology-neutral policy for Australia's electricity generation mix" and that to ensure that this is the case, "action is required now."

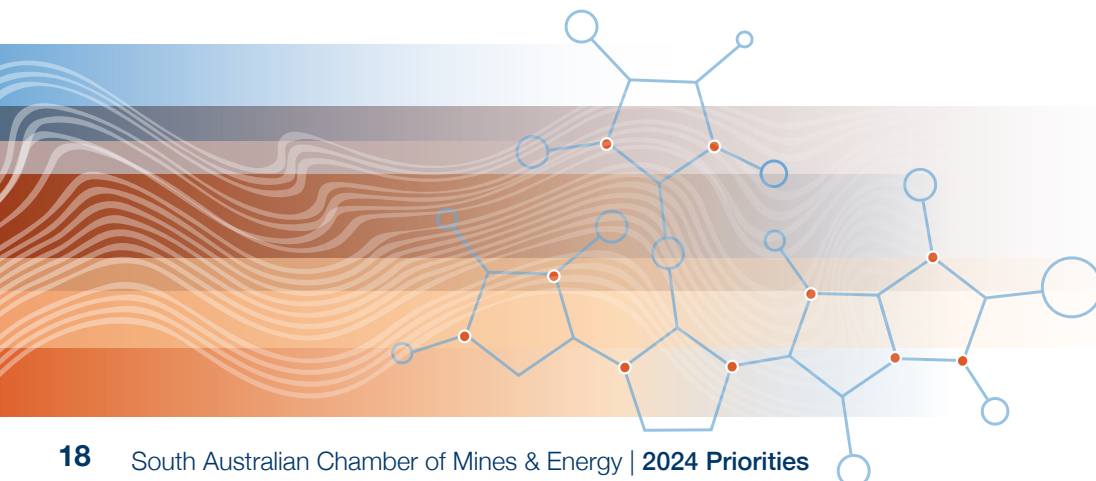
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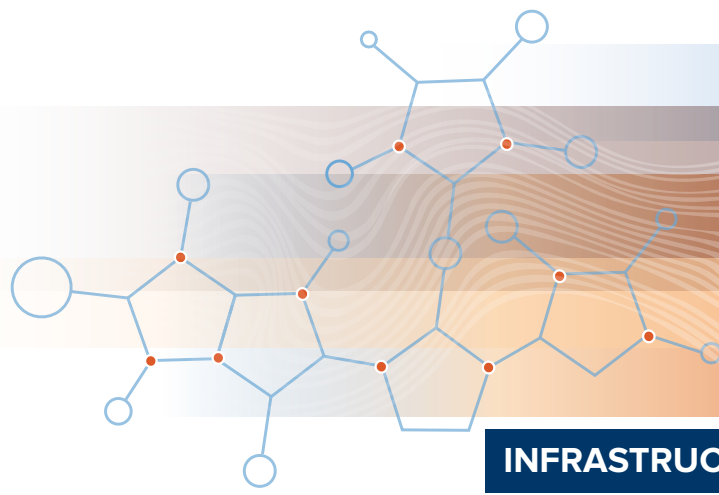
# Infrastructure

Road, rail, water, and power infrastructure are critical for the development of resources projects.

SACOME has a strong and demonstrated record of infrastructure advocacy on behalf of the resources sector, informed by a collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders and resulting in State-wide benefit to other industry sectors and communities.

SACOME will continue to advocate for initiatives that resolve structural impediments to the development of the State's resources provinces, recognising that access to water, power and suitable transport and logistics routes are required to underpin greater levels of investment and achieve the South Australian Government's economic growth ambitions.





## INFRASTRUCTURE

### SACOME 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Rail Incentives

SACOME calls on the South Australian Government to fund rail freight incentive schemes, consistent with other Australian jurisdictions.

SACOME submits that a stronger rail freight network reduces road congestion and the cost of road maintenance. Moreover, the transportation of freight by rail reduces carbon emissions by approximately two-thirds. Importantly, bulk freight transported by rail may result in exporters having more options in the consideration of suitable ports.

Consistent with SACOME's long-term calls, this would increase the prospect of South Australia retaining a greater part of the supply chain, rather than seeing exports travel to ports in other states.

Victoria has implemented a Mode Shift Incentive Scheme, which involves the government providing incentives for the transport of containerised freight by rail instead of by road. Additionally, Queensland is trialling rail incentives for bulk freight.

SACOME calls for funding to be made available to an appropriate body such as the Freight and Supply Chain Consultative Committee to undertake interjurisdictional analysis to better understand how greater volumes of rail freight can benefit South Australian industry, exporters and the broader economy.

SACOME 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Regional and Remote Road Maintenance

SACOME calls on the State Government to continue prioritising maintenance funding for regional and remote roads critical to the operation of South Australian resource projects.

South Australia has a road network comprising some 10,000 km of road.

SACOME believes that the maintenance and upgrade of these roads must be assessed in such a manner that considers their economic value to the State, rather than the use of a simple metric that quantifies vehicle movements.

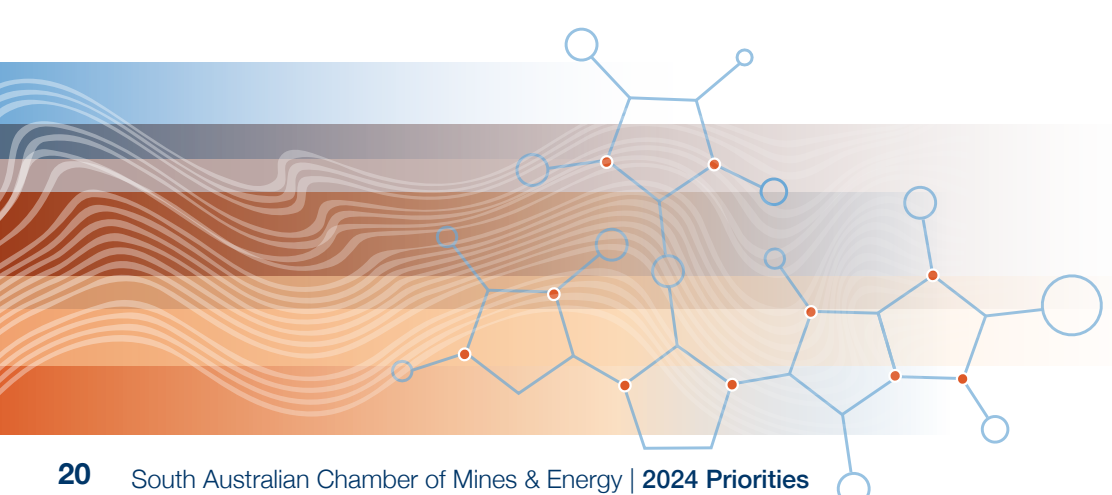
While road maintenance is of paramount importance to safe movement of resources across the State it also impacts freight operators, pastoralists and tourists using regional and remote roads.

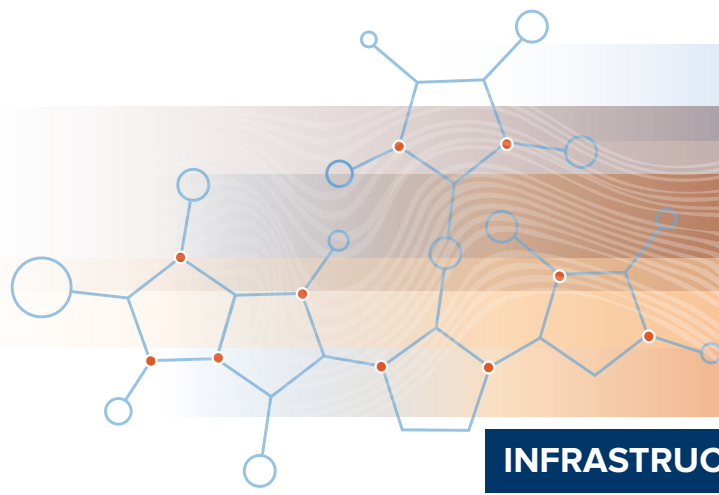
InfrastructureSA's inaugural *20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy* published in 2020 stated that the estimated road maintenance backlog was \$780 million and growing by \$100 million per year. It also found that South Australia spends proportionately less on road maintenance compared to New South Wales and Western Australia.

SACOME continues to call for the implementation of a four-year road maintenance fund of at least \$600 million to reduce the backlog of road maintenance across South Australia's road network.

The 2023 State Budget allocated \$350 million over four years leaving a significant funding deficit for maintenance, further compounding the exponential growth of the South Australia's road maintenance backlog.

**CALL FOR  
IMPLEMENTATION OF  
\$600<sub>M</sub>  
ROAD MAINTENANCE FUND  
OVER FOUR YEARS**





## INFRASTRUCTURE

### SACOME 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Priority Transmission Infrastructure

SACOME calls on the Government to identify priority transmission infrastructure for the State, such as the Mid-North Expansion projects, to meet future industrial electricity demand.

South Australia is experiencing a rapid and significant uplift in its electricity demand, with key drivers including the potential connection of large new customer loads, the development of large iron ore mining operations, and the development of hydrogen facilities and hydrogen hubs.

It is predicted that around 1,000 MW of additional load will connect to the transmission network by 2030 and the development of major transmission assets requires at least five years from initial planning to delivery.

Together, the proposed Mid-North Expansion (Southern) and Mid-North Expansion (Northern) projects will unlock substantial benefits for the State by enabling industry growth and supporting additional local renewable energy development, as South Australia becomes increasingly dependent on more distant renewable sources with the retirement of local gas generators.

SACOME recommends that the South Australian Government identify these projects as strategic infrastructure priorities, ensuring that the timing of major network development is aligned with the development of energy projects and increased energy demand across industrial, mining, and hydrogen production activity.

## PREDICTED

# 1000<sub>MW</sub>

## ADDITIONAL LOAD BY 2030

SACOME 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Digital Infrastructure Taskforce

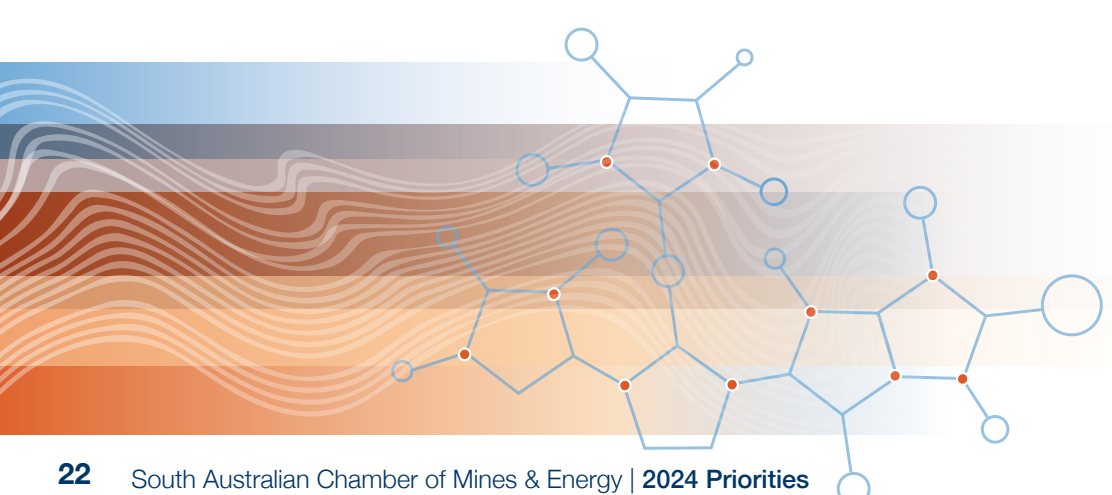
SACOME calls for the establishment of a South Australian Digital Infrastructure Taskforce, including representation from businesses and universities, to provide holistic advice to Government on the value and utility of Digital Infrastructure as a driver of economic and green growth across public and private sectors.

The principal impediment to the uptake and implementation of digital infrastructure is a lack of understanding as to what is needed, what it involves, or how transformative embedding it within existing systems could be.

Technology such as cyber-physical systems (CPS), using the Internet of Things (IoT), integrates computation, networking and physical processes and can be characterised as the most advanced form of digital twins. By embedding these capabilities into physical devices and infrastructure, CPS could dramatically transform how we interact with the environment and built systems.

The data generated from CPS can be fed into decision-support systems that use advanced analytics and artificial intelligence, which could help policymakers and businesses make informed decisions that align with their policy goals. CPS has a particular role to play in addressing climate change and improving public infrastructure.

While some work has been undertaken by other jurisdictions, it has been limited in its nature. SACOME recommends the establishment of a Taskforce to assess its benefits and potential to the South Australian economy, with a focus on driving decarbonisation efforts.





SACOME continues to advocate for a best-practice regulatory framework that facilitates industry activity, reduces sovereign risk, and supports long-term investment decisions.

### SACOME 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Best Practice Regulatory Framework

The resources sector is subject to extensive regulatory oversight across all stages of activity and is one of the most heavily regulated sectors in Australia.

- Scoping and financial assurance mechanisms under the Mining Act;
- Social Impact Guidance under the Mining Act; and
- Continued implementation of the Mining & Energy Regulations System which will replace the existing Tenement Management System used by the Department of Energy & Mining.

South Australia benefits from a reputation as a low-risk investment destination. Sound regulatory structures, underpinned by broad industry support, create an attractive investment environment, and provide South Australia with a competitive advantage.

SACOME will continue to maintain a watching brief on emerging legislative issues ensuring that members remain informed throughout 2024.

**SACOME will continue to engage with the South Australian and Commonwealth Governments on a range of legislative matters, including:**

- Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Regulations & associated policy instruments;
- Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Regulations & associated policy instruments;

SACOME members remain committed to ongoing consultation and collaboration to assist the development and review of regulatory structures governing the resources sector.



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## EDUCATION & PROMOTION

### SACOME 2024 CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

# ResourcefulSA

SACOME acknowledges the financial support provided by the State Government for the relaunch of the ResourcefulSA campaign and the ongoing support this provides for the sector

SACOME will relaunch a refreshed ResourcefulSA campaign across outdoor and social media platforms in 2024. This multi-year campaign responds to research on the earlier iterations of ResourcefulSA and the Resources: But not as you know it. campaign, which targeted a youth audience.

At a time of industry consolidation and contraction, this campaign aims to ensure the products mined or produced by the resources sector are front of mind for South Australians.

Following the initial launch of the campaign, visual case studies will be introduced to reinforce the value and contribution of the resources sector to SA, its commitment to Net Zero and its importance to everyday life.



SACOME 2024 CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

# STEM Digital Technology Education Pilot

The teaching of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in schools is vital to ensuring South Australia keeps pace with technological change to advance its economy and prosperity.

Aligning with the State's educational curriculum, SACOME will this year launch the Digital Technology Education Pilot in six Catholic Education schools in collaboration with industry partners. The pilot will teach fundamental STEM skills, increase student interest in technology-based career pathways, and support the future skilled-talent pipeline crucially needed for the South Australian resources sector.

Industry and education both play a key role in supporting students to understand the realities and needs of the STEM workforce and to prepare students for the opportunities ahead.

SACOME continues to call on the State Government to allocate funding to the Department of Education to enable the roll out of the STEM Digital Technology Education Pilot in State schools.



South  
Australian  
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Energy

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