

South  
Australian  
Chamber  
Of  
Mines &  
Energy

# SACOME

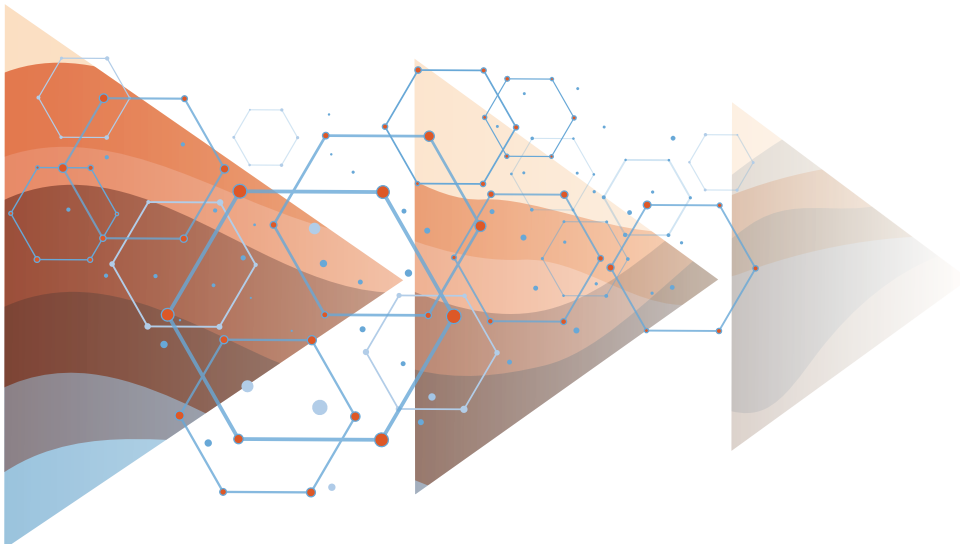


2025  
**Policy Priorities**



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# CEO's Foreword

SACOME's 2025 Policy Priorities have been set against the backdrop of a Federal Election expected to be held in early 2025, and the penultimate year of the South Australian Malinauskas Government's first term.



SACOME's enduring focus is on growth of the South Australian resources sector for the benefit of our member companies and the State.

In 2025, SACOME continues to advance a program of advocacy aimed at resolving long-standing barriers to development of the South Australian resources sector, while also advancing new initiatives that reflect emerging issues of importance.

SACOME's annual survey of members conducted in late 2024 highlights that the issues of energy policy, regulatory efficiency, infrastructure, province development and land access continue to be the highest order priorities for the South Australian resources sector.

SACOME continues to champion these issues on behalf of members, recognising the importance of sustained advocacy to realising outcomes on these long-term and complex issues.

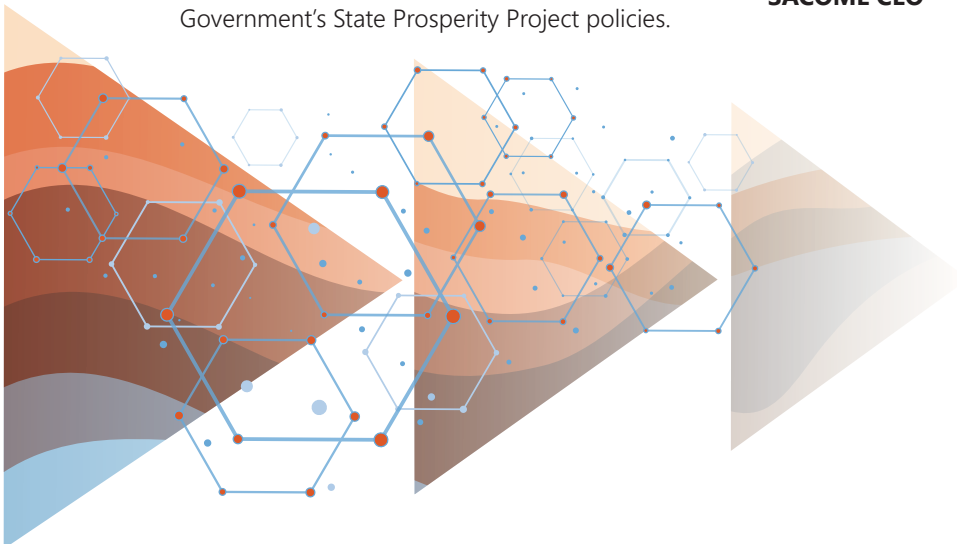
SACOME also recognises the ambitious change agendas set by the Albanese Government's Future Made in Australia and the Malinauskas Government's State Prosperity Project policies.

SACOME notes that the Federal Opposition has made development of nuclear power a central plank of their 2025 policy platform and will continue to engage in good faith on the issue of nuclear development, consistent with our long-held policy stance that all low emission technologies should be considered as part of our future energy mix to ensure rapid decarbonisation and energy reliability.

At both a State and national level, the resources sector is unquestionably a central player in the outcomes sought by governments in the areas of decarbonisation, heavy industry transformation, energy transition and development of new resources projects.

As we move into a protracted election period, SACOME will continue to build on its demonstrated record of effective advocacy, creating new opportunities for the South Australian resources sector and progressing outcomes that reflect the shared ambitions of industry and government.

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





## 2030 VISION

Accelerating the  
advancement of the  
resources sector for  
the prosperity of  
South Australia



# Supporting the Resources Sector and the State

SACOME's 2025 Policy Priorities continue a program of sustained advocacy aimed at resolving long-standing barriers to growth of the South Australian resources sector.

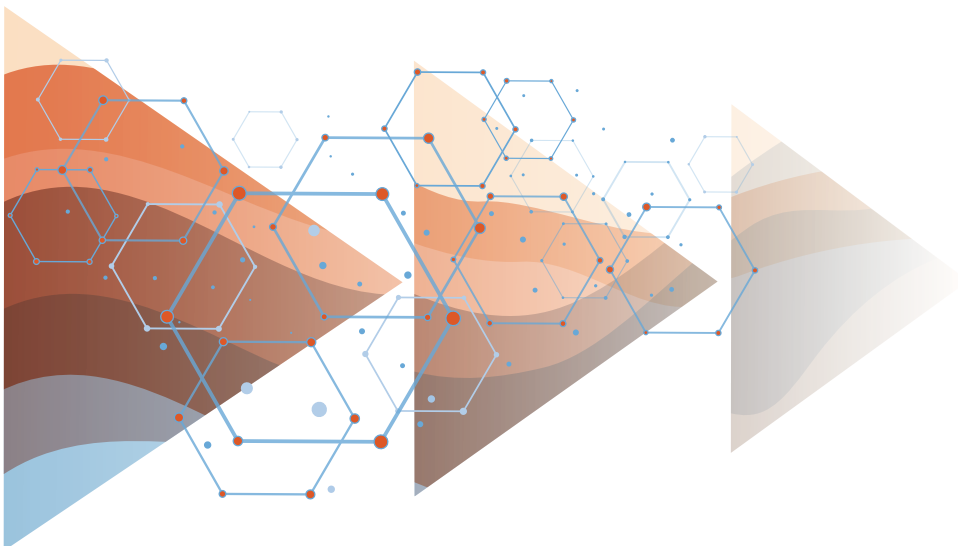
This program of advocacy also advances new initiatives that reflect emerging issues of importance.

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:

- Continued investment in industry-enabling infrastructure;
- Development and maturation of the State's nascent green industries, including hydrogen and renewable energy production in the Upper Spencer Gulf;
- Development of a world-class copper province in the Far North;
- The manufacture of low carbon iron and steel in the Upper Spencer Gulf;

- Positioning South Australia as a supplier of critical and strategic minerals at a time of growing demand;
- Ensuring the orderly energy transformation and decarbonisation of the resources sector in a rapidly changing energy system;
- Continued support for the role of gas for electricity generation and in industrial processes, supported by use of carbon capture and storage;
- Engagement and advocacy on key areas of legislative reform; and
- Investment in STEM education and digital infrastructure to enable a future workforce.

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.



# 2025 Policy Priorities

SACOME's 2025 Priorities align with the strategic advocacy pillars of:

- State Economic Development
- Energy & Innovation
- Infrastructure
- Legislation & Regulation
- Infrastructure
- Education, Workforce & Skills

The Priorities are also informed by SACOME's 2030 Vision which sets out five goals to secure the future prosperity and success of the South Australian resources sector:

- Constructive relationships with Federal and State Governments;
- Nurturing an expanding pipeline of talent;
- Environmental and social protection;
- Enhancement of positive industry awareness; and
- Economic evaluation of growth opportunities.

SACOME's policy and advocacy initiatives for 2025 are:

- Northern Water Project
- Resources Sector Heatmap & Infrastructure Corridors
- Carbon Capture & Storage Industry Development
- Green Iron & Steel Industry Development
- Energy Transition Roadmap
- Nuclear Readiness
- Regional & Remote Road Maintenance
- South Australian Cyber Infrastructure Taskforce
- Native Title Agreement Reform
- South Australian Biodiversity Act Engagement
- Resourceful SA Campaign
- STEM Digital Education Program





In 2025 SACOME will continue to champion policy measures that drive economic development for the resources sector and the State. In so doing, SACOME aims to address long-standing barriers to development; and enable the growth of new types of industrial activity at a time of major transition.

### SACOME 2025 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.

Completion of the Northern Water Project achieves 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 copper in the Far North, green iron/steel and hydrogen in the Upper Spencer Gulf and provides a new source of water for the Eastern Eyre Peninsula.

SACOME welcomes the strong support shown by the Commonwealth and State Governments, including the \$100 million in equity contribution that formed part of the 2023-24 State Budget; and the \$65 million in funding from the Commonwealth

in the 2025-26 Federal Budget as part of the Future Made in Australia initiative.

SACOME also welcomes establishment of the Office for Northern Water Delivery by the South Australian Government as this initiative moves into the detailed planning, approvals and agreement-making phase preparatory to Final Investment Decision.

In 2024 management of the Northern Water Project moved from Infrastructure South Australia to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT). Final Investment Decision remains scheduled for mid 2026.

SACOME notes that the Final Investment Decision to proceed with construction of the Northern Water Project will rely on securing 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.

Progress of the Northern Water Project to completion remains a key priority for SACOME and we will continue to engage at the State and Federal level to ensure continued bipartisan support as a 2025 Federal Election commitment.

**SACOME WELCOMES**  
**\$100 MILLION**  
**EQUITY CONTRIBUTION**  
 2023-24 STATE BUDGET



## SACOME 2025 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.

Over the past two decades, the South Australian Government has made considerable effort to better understand where mineral and petroleum resources are located across the State.

In the interests of growing the South Australian resources sector, SACOME advocates for measures that will expedite the development of known resource reserves to better capitalise on investments made in exploration by both government and industry.

SACOME continues to call for development of a Resources Sector Economic Heatmap to provide the State Government with a consolidated understanding of the value of South Australia's resources provinces and enable prioritisation of provinces/areas of the State for development.

SACOME's intent is for the Heatmap to identify:

- 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.

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

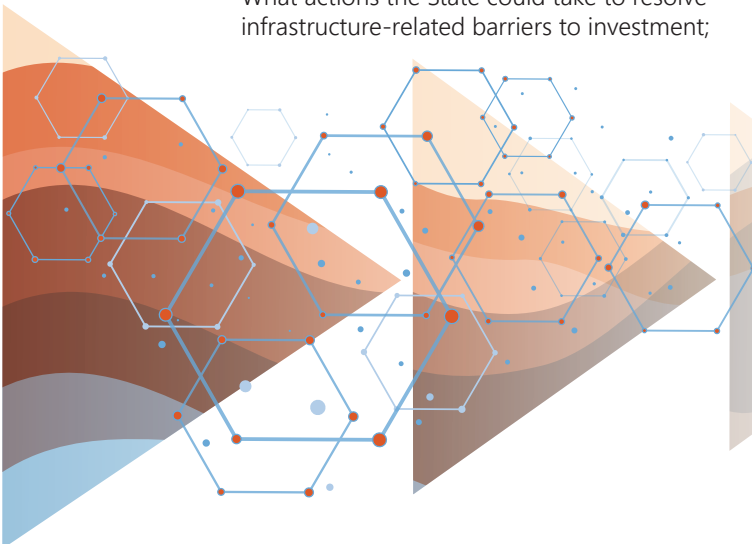
Dovetailing with the Resources Sector Economic Heatmap, SACOME also calls on the State Government to finalise development of the 'Resources Infrastructure Corridors' initiative.

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.

SACOME notes the State Development & Coordination Facilitation Bill 2024 as a vehicle for expediting project development, principally through creation of the Office of the Coordinator General; and granting the Coordinator General power to declare 'State Development Areas'.

SACOME supports the concept of State Development Areas and notes alignment with our Resources Sector Heatmap & Infrastructure Corridors proposal, however, we emphasise that the intended function of the Heatmap/Infrastructure Corridors proposal is to provide a consolidated understanding of where expedited project development can be best applied across the State.



## SACOME 2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Carbon Capture & Storage Industry Development

SACOME calls on the South Australian Government to provide support for the construction of a pipeline from Port Bonython to Moomba to facilitate development of an international carbon storage industry based in South Australia.

Furthermore, SACOME calls for the South Australian Government to progress dialogue with the Federal Government to establish bi-lateral agreements that facilitate the international trade of carbon.

Santos, with its Joint Venture partner Beach Energy, announced completion of the \$200 million Moomba CCS facility in October 2024.

This facility is one of Australia's largest investments in emissions reduction and, at full operation, the Moomba CCS facility will store up to 1.7 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

Linking this nation-leading facility to international markets is a crucial next step in the development of a South Australian carbon capture and storage industry and will require the construction of a 22inch, 700 kilometre pipeline connecting Port Bonython to Moomba. This pipeline would enable the import, transport and storage of carbon at the

Moomba CCS facility while potentially supporting a new, commercial CCS industry and an e-methane industry.

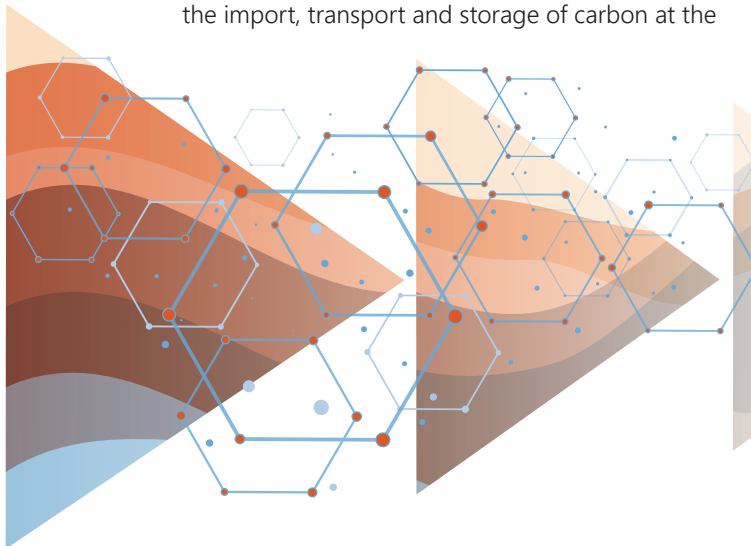
The use of CCS will be a critical tool for hard-to-abate sectors in offsetting their emissions, including cement and steel manufacturing, which the country has a long-term strategic interest in maintaining.

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 submits that appropriate funding measures to support the construction of a dedicated CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline from Port Bonython to Moomba to facilitate import and storage of carbon should be prioritised.

South Australia has an opportunity to be a first-mover in developing a local CCS industry, and timely investment in industry development measures can position the State as a leader in international carbon trade. Creation of a new industry based on trade in carbon also offers the South Australian Government potential new revenue streams, both through increased industrial activity, and royalty arrangements relating to the import of carbon for storage.

The development of bilateral agreements with international parties is an important next step in establishing the necessary regulatory arrangements to enable cross-border carbon trade. SACOME calls for the South Australian Government to progress dialogue with its Commonwealth Government counterparts to advance this outcome.

POTENTIAL STORAGE OF  
**1.7M TONNES OF CO<sub>2</sub>**  
 PER YEAR REQUIRES A  
**700km**  
**PIPELINE**  
 CONNECTING PORT  
 BONYTHON TO MOOMBA





## SACOME 2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Green Iron & Steel Industry Development

SACOME calls for the South Australian Government to undertake a Green Iron & Steel Sector Supply Chain Study to inform the strategic development of a South Australian Green Iron & Steel Industry.

While the Green Iron & Steel Strategy and Green Iron Opportunity Expression of Interest signal the Government's policy intent, industry development must be supported by whole-of-supply chain understanding.

The South Australian Government's Green Iron Opportunity Expression of Interest sets an ambitious 'green iron by 2030' target. It aims to build 'a pathway to develop a direct reduced iron plant and supporting value chain', with a focus on 'de-risking the environment for commercial green iron projects to emerge'.

Undertaking a Green Iron & Steel Sector Supply Chain Study is an important step in enabling industry development but industry development of this nature must be underpinned by properly informed planning.

SACOME advocates for requisite strategic planning to be undertaken in a way that allows for coordinated industry development by understanding where and how to best invest in enabling measures against a pre-determined timeline – notionally one that aligns with the South Australian Government's net-zero objectives.

While the Green Iron Opportunity Expression of Interest sets a vision, delivery on this vision must be informed by full understanding of where bottlenecks in the supply chain will be encountered and the measures required for their timely resolution.

SACOME identifies the need for strategic coordination of supply chain inputs:

### Feedstock

SACOME notes that development of a green iron and steel industry is predicated on supply of magnetite as a feedstock to direct reduced iron (DRI) and steel production.

While South Australia has approximately 7.4 billion tonnes of economically demonstrated iron ore, much of this is still at the pre-development stage, and significant capital investment is required to enable both individual project and broader province development.

### Rail Infrastructure

Transport of magnetite along the supply chain is fundamental to green iron and steel production.

Greater levels of iron ore production will see increased demand for rail usage and require investments in the rail network to allow its efficient movement to a DRI processing plant or to port.

SACOME members have advised that Green Iron and Steel industry development as contemplated by the South Australian Government's policy agenda will require upgrade of the Tarcoola to Whyalla rail line to avoid bottlenecks arising through greater levels of rail patronage.

...Continued on next page

## SACOME 2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

Green Iron & Steel  
Industry Development**Beneficiation Plant Location**

Determining the location of a beneficiation plant – or multiple beneficiation plants – is relevant to decisions about power, water and transport linkages.

Some operators have expressed a preference for locating a pre concentrate dry beneficiation plant either on their mine site or as close to their mine site as possible, reflecting the fact that onsite dry beneficiation will reduce the amount of product they need to transport to the next point in the supply chain. This has impacts on transportation costs associated with their projects and can alter project economics significantly.

Onsite dry beneficiation will require dedicated power transmission lines to the mine site, whereas wet beneficiation will require both dedicated power transmission and water supply to the mine site.

These are significant capital decisions for operators, investors and for government to address as part of the industry development process.

**Power Requirements**

Power requirements to support development of a Green Iron & Steel Industry must also be included as part of an industry development strategic planning exercise.

SACOME notes that renewable energy and hydrogen are intended to be the ultimate sources of industrial energy in line with positions set out in policies like the State Prosperity Project, Hydrogen Jobs Plan and Green Iron & Steel Strategy.

Securing generation capacity and linking this generation to project sites across the supply chain at a commercially viable price point is as fundamental to green iron and steel industry development, as it is to industry development in general.

SACOME submits that consolidating a State-wide understanding of generation demand relevant to green iron and steel industry development should be a key element of a South Australian Green Iron & Steel Industry Supply Chain Study.

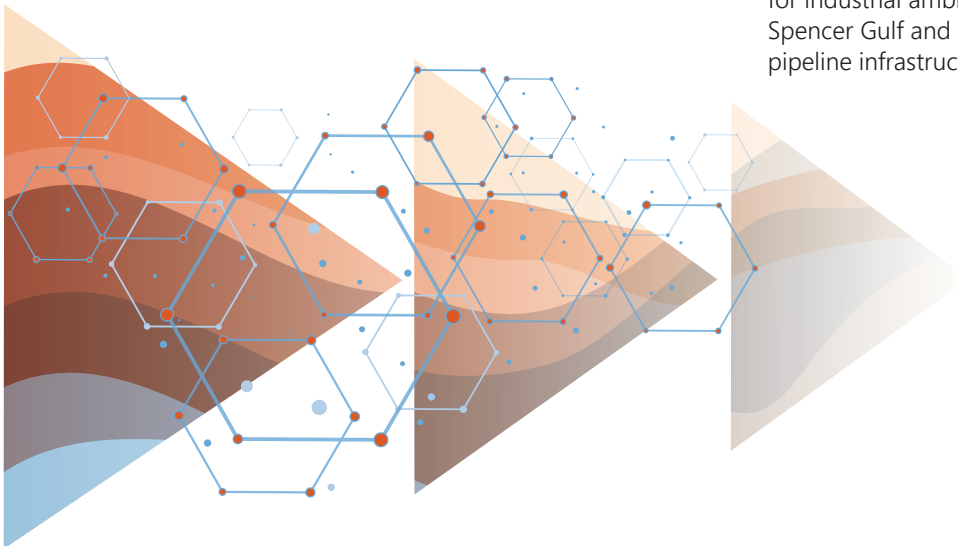
**Whyalla Gas Lateral Pipeline**

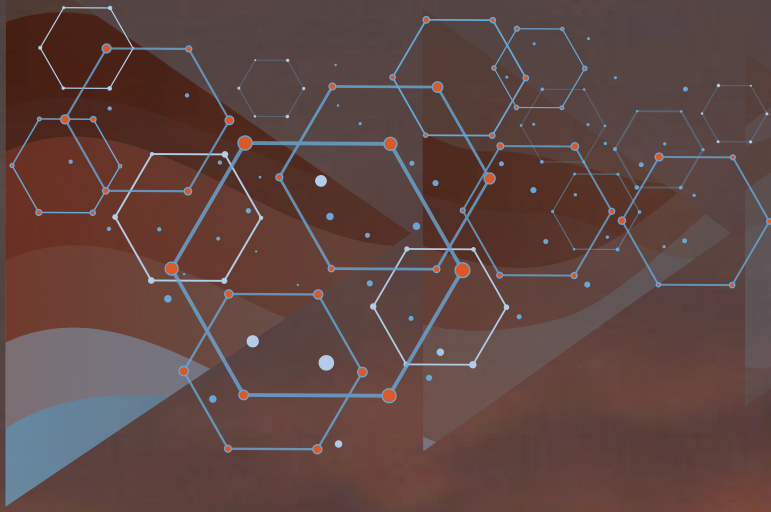
While hydrogen is intended to be the ultimate fuel source for production of Direct Reduced Iron and green steel, gas will be the transitional fuel to bridge the gap between coal and hydrogen in iron and steel production.

Pipeline capacity to Whyalla is insufficient to meet requirements for Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) flagged by operators like GFG; and will be a necessary input for greater levels of green iron and steel production per the aims of the Malinauskas Government's Green Iron & Steel Strategy.

Based on consultation with its member companies, SACOME is advised that meeting these production objectives will require an increase in gas pipeline capacity to Whyalla from its present 24 to 80TJ – 120TJ.

This would require construction/duplication of 115km of pipeline from Port Pirie to Whyalla and construction of a compressor station. Additionally, ensuring that gas pipelines are capable of carrying and storing hydrogen is an important consideration for industrial ambitions in Whyalla and the Upper Spencer Gulf and must be part of future-proofing pipeline infrastructure for hydrogen use.





## CONTEXT

# Energy & Innovation

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<sup>1</sup>.

These costs continue to be disproportionately borne by industry.

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

1. [https://www.sacome.org.au/uploads/1/1/3/2/113283509/sacome\\_media\\_release\\_-\\_unplanned\\_energy\\_transition\\_costing\\_industry\\_final\\_-\\_18\\_september\\_2023.pdf](https://www.sacome.org.au/uploads/1/1/3/2/113283509/sacome_media_release_-_unplanned_energy_transition_costing_industry_final_-_18_september_2023.pdf)

## SACOME 2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Energy Transition White Paper

SACOME calls for release of the South Australian Government's Energy Transition White Paper as a priority action.

SACOME continues to champion the importance of strategic and coordinated energy policy development on behalf of its members.

SACOME calls for release of the Energy Transition White Paper as a priority action, 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 has previously observed that South Australia's experience is one of a 'disorderly' energy transition where energy policy goals have been set and pursued in relative isolation, resulting in unintended consequences elsewhere in the energy system with associated unintended impacts on both consumers and the State's economy.<sup>2</sup>

SACOME expresses concern at the continuing number of market intervention mechanisms implemented by government and statutory authorities used as expensive, reactive measures to manage an unstable system.

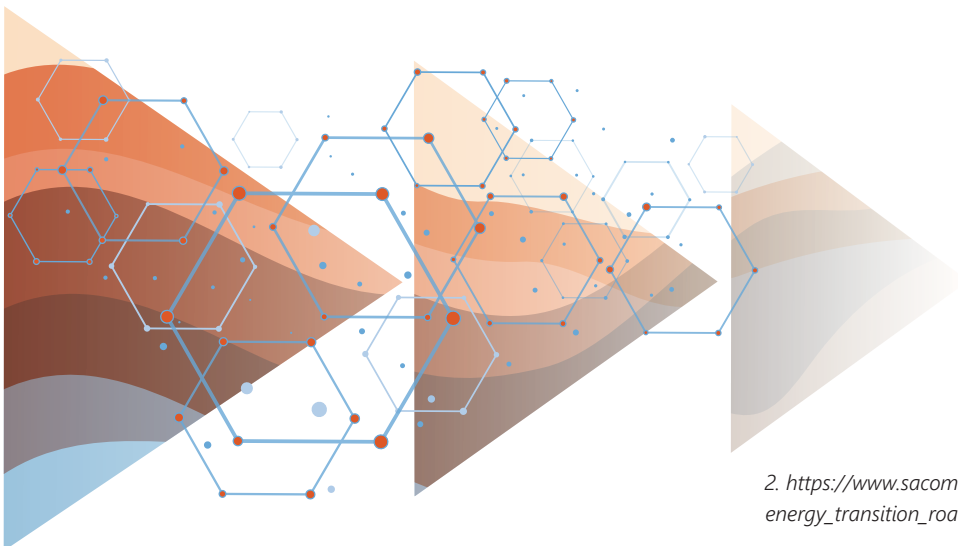
SACOME's research has demonstrated that direction charges, largely borne by commercial and industrial customers, increased from \$6.15 million in Q4 2019 to \$19.94 million in Q4 2022, a 224% increase.

An array of regulatory, pass-through and market intervention charges are being passed on to businesses - and inevitably consumers - with large industrial customers reporting that market intervention costs now account for approximately 20-30% of their electricity bills.

SACOME cautions that continuing to introduce reactive measures funded by new levies on the South Australian customer base risks undermining business viability and the investment attractiveness of South Australia as a jurisdiction.

We reiterate in the strongest terms that strategic energy policy reform continues to be an urgent priority, particularly at a time where South Australia's electricity prices remain the highest in the nation.

**DIRECTION CHARGES INCREASED BY  
\$13.49 MILLION  
IN THREE YEARS**  
LARGELY AFFECTING COMMERCIAL  
AND INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS



2. [https://www.sacome.org.au/uploads/1/1/3/2/113283509/sacome\\_energy\\_transition\\_roadmap\\_2021\\_final\\_22.02.22.pdf](https://www.sacome.org.au/uploads/1/1/3/2/113283509/sacome_energy_transition_roadmap_2021_final_22.02.22.pdf) (at pg.3)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA HOSTS

**80%**OF AUSTRALIA'S KNOWN  
URANIUM RESERVES

SACOME 2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Nuclear Readiness

SACOME calls upon the South Australian Government to allocate funding for upskilling of South Australian regulators to ensure jurisdictional readiness for implementation of nuclear energy.

Nuclear energy offers a zero-emissions energy source with the ability to provide reliable and dispatchable baseload power in extremely large quantities.

Removing prohibitions on nuclear generation is required to achieve this outcome.

It is SACOME's longstanding position that all low emission technologies should be considered as part of our future energy mix to ensure rapid decarbonisation and energy reliability.

Net zero at the speed and scale set by national and state government targets cannot be achieved with renewables alone, despite South Australia's successful uptake of solar and wind.

While gas has, and will continue to have, a role in providing a measure of baseload power, nuclear represents an emissions-free alternative and would both complement the existing renewable resources and mitigate some of the pressures for new transmission infrastructure that renewables power demands.

Given our State's unique and proven jurisdictional advantages and our bipartisan support at a state level for nuclear powered submarines, uranium production, transportation and export, along with increasing public support for nuclear energy, South Australia is recognised as a world-class uranium province.

South Australia hosts 80% of Australia's known uranium reserves and is a major exporter of uranium oxide. Importantly, our State boasts a 35-year record of proven safe uranium handling and transportation and is home to 25% of the world's uranium reserves.

South Australia has the only port in the nation approved for the export of uranium products, and a well-developed regulatory regime governing the uranium supply chain. In addition to our natural advantages, South Australia is host to the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency, and will potentially host Australia's nuclear submarine fleet, four of which will be dry docked at any given time in Port Adelaide. All of them will be equipped with small modular reactors.

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.

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 State jurisdictions can undertake. One such role is ensuring that the State-based regulatory regime governing nuclear energy is fit for purpose and in advance of generation capacity.

SACOME calls for the South Australian Government to assess the State's nuclear readiness and begin the work of building the regulatory framework to enable nuclear generation in our State.



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

Infrastructure is the great enabler of all resources sector activity and SACOME will continue to advocate on behalf of members to ensure that the infrastructure requirements of our sector are understood and actioned.

SACOME 2025 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

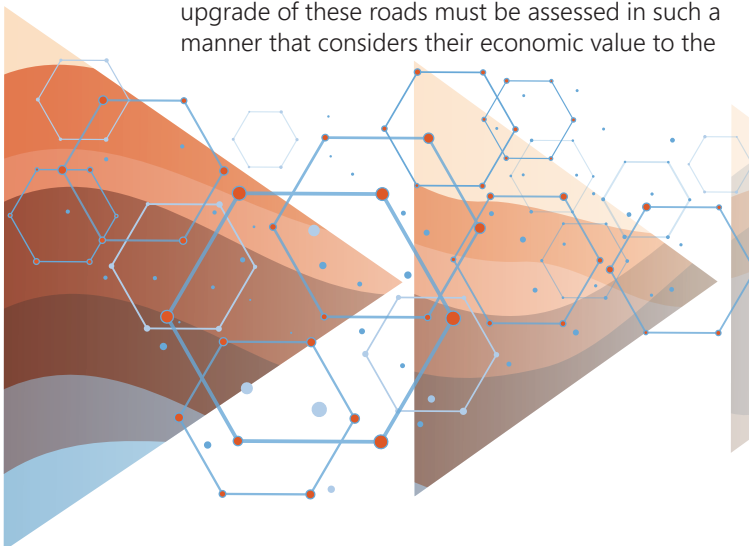
State, rather than the use of a simple metric that quantifies vehicle movements.

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.

Infrastructure SA'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.







## SACOME 2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

# South Australian Cyber Infrastructure Taskforce

SACOME calls for the South Australian Government to facilitate creation of a South Australian Cyber Infrastructure Taskforce to coordinate strategic investment in cyber infrastructure.

This Taskforce would comprise members from government, industry, and peak bodies and have the objective of addressing the key opportunities and challenges in establishing a cyber network for the resources sector.

SACOME suggests that a primary goal of the Taskforce should be to develop a 'Pit-to-Customer' cyber infrastructure that provides secure, transparent, and data-sovereign connections for managing the resources and energy supply chain.

A key function of the Taskforce would be to recommend frameworks and roadmaps that enable various digital technologies to connect to a secure 'cyber network shell.' This integration generates a Cyber Physical System that allows organisations better access to critical data from across the supply chain.

Implementing this infrastructure would improve data control for companies, mitigate supply chain risks, enhance brick and mortar hubs, and enable reliable access to Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions data.

The Taskforce could also utilise Industry 4.0 technologies to recommend a framework and roadmap for integrating various digital technologies into a Cyber Physical System, improving data control and supply chain security.

This infrastructure, particularly in the Upper Spencer Gulf, would encompass various sectors including water, renewable energy, gas, and hydrogen, among others. The approach aims to manage emissions across all scopes effectively and is inspired by similar European models that respond to shifts in manufacturing and supply sectors.

Establishing a Cyber Infrastructure Taskforce would not only enhance supply chain security but also position South Australia as a leader in cyber infrastructure usage, crucial for the State's industrial growth, economic controls and sustainability initiatives.



Our sector is extensively regulated and responsibility for adherence to legislative and regulatory requirements is recognised as a non-negotiable obligation by all member companies.

In 2025, SACOME will continue to advocate for efficient regulatory frameworks on behalf of the South Australian resources sector and ensure that regulators are provided with an informed operational understanding of our sector and its many complexities.

SACOME 2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Native Title Agreement Reform

SACOME will continue to work with the South Australian Government, the SA Native Title Service and traditional owner groups to drive further reform.

In 2024, SACOME held a series of collaborative workshops with members to scope options for Native Title Agreement reform.

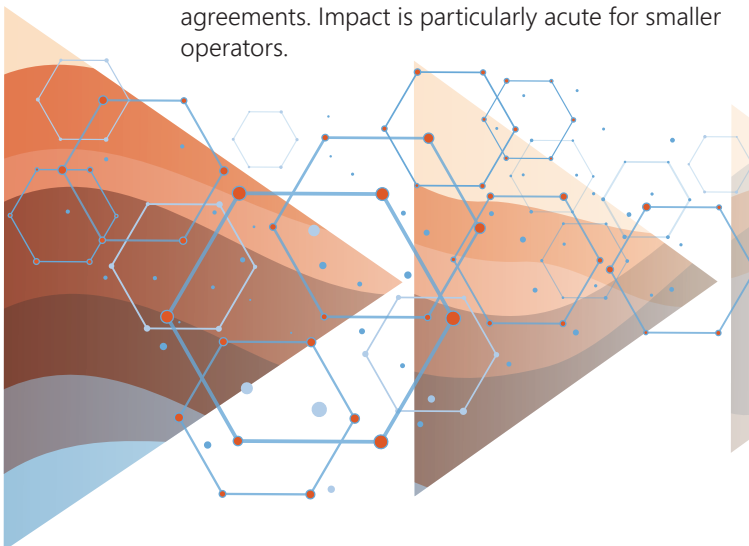
Member companies continue to raise concerns regarding time and cost associated with reaching agreement on cultural heritage and land access agreements. Impact is particularly acute for smaller operators.

The South Australian Government, SACOME, the SA Native Title Service and traditional owner groups undertook significant work in the 2000s to develop Indigenous Land Use Agreements, a major land access reform at the time.

The Department of Energy & Mining conducted the Stronger Partners, Stronger Futures consultation process between 2016 and 2018 to address the gap for managing early exploration whilst considering Aboriginal heritage and native title interests.

As a priority for 2025, SACOME will undertake a program of work aimed at driving further Native Title Agreement reform through:

- Review of current processes and time periods to progress native title applications from initial application through to permit award;
- Consolidating an understanding of the challenges faced by proponents engaging with Native Title Parties; and
- Advocating for reintroduction of forums that allow the South Australian Government, resources sector proponents and Native Title parties to meet and engage, with a focus on collective objectives including Indigenous Participation opportunities.





## SACOME 2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

# Biodiversity Act Engagement

The new Biodiversity Act represents major reform and SACOME's 2025 advocacy will ensure that the South Australian resources sector's views are fully represented.

The Department for Environment & Water (DEW) announced development of a new Biodiversity Act in early 2024 and consulted extensively with SACOME members over the course of the past year to inform design of the proposed legislation.

The consultation has led to greater clarity regarding legislative intent, which should ultimately be reflected in the draft legislation.

As a next step, DEW has released draft legislation for stakeholder review in early 2025.

Given the new Biodiversity Act represents a major reform and is intended to operate as the State's 'key piece of environmental legislation', ensuring that the South Australian resources sector's views are fully represented; and that the proposed new legislation does not create unnecessary regulatory duplication, where effective safeguards already exist, has been set as a key policy priority for 2025.



CONTEXT

# Education, Workforce & Skills

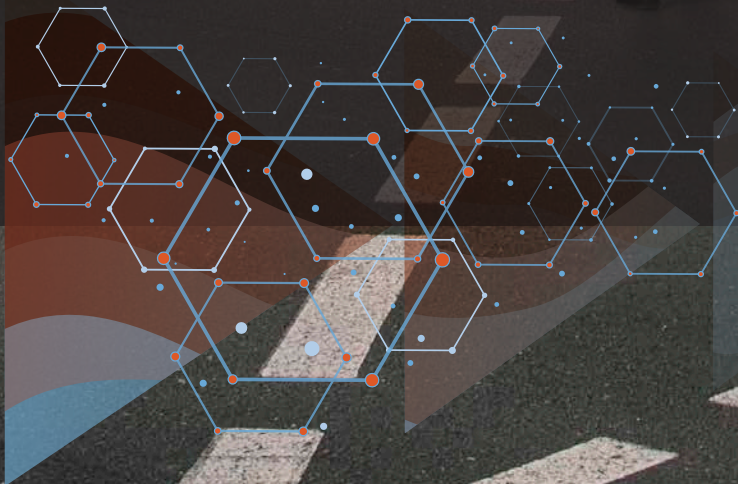
Nurturing a future pipeline of skilled workers is essential to the continued operation and growth of the South Australian resources sector. Furthermore, ensuring that the community understands the value of the resources sector to their everyday lives is central to this priority.

SACOME will build upon work undertaken in past years to expand its STEM Digital Technology Education Program to State schools.

Alongside this, SACOME will continue to provide a point of liaison between its member companies and government to ensure that

the current and future education, skills and workforce requirements of our sector are fully represented.

Building on the success of the ResourcefulSA community education campaign in 2020 and delivered in partnership with the South Australian Government in 2024, SACOME will further amplify the reach of the campaign in 2025 to reap the benefits of sustained and consistent messaging in multi-year campaigns.





SACOME 2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

# ResourcefulSA Campaign

Having generated more than 37.7 million impressions in 2024, SACOME acknowledges the financial support of the South Australian Government, which enabled the *ResourcefulSA* campaign to reach 1 in 4 South Australians through paid digital, outdoor and transit media.

In response to encouraging community sentiment polling in June and December 2024, SACOME will be commencing the next phase of the *ResourcefulSA* campaign in 2025.

With the purpose of educating and inspiring the South Australian community about the value of the resources sector and the products it delivers, the *ResourcefulSA* campaign is designed to primarily elevate the perception of the resources sector amongst women and young adults.

While this has been the section of the South Australian population with lower sector engagement, the results of the polling are encouraging.

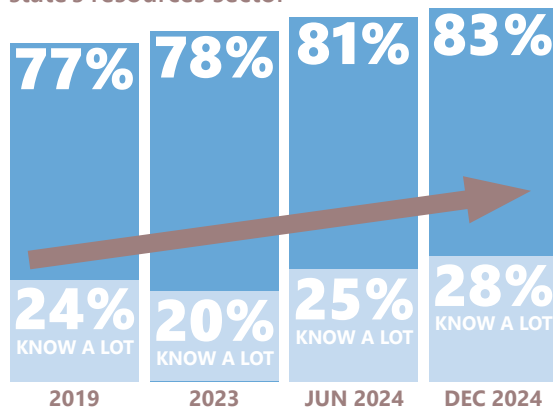
83% of adults now know about the resources sector compared to 78% in 2023, and there has been strong cut through with the key target of young adults.

The strongest results in terms of recall come from social media, with 40% of 18 to 34-year-olds recalling seeing the campaign.

Polling also revealed that there is a significant appetite to see more of the campaign and that 45% of respondents who had not seen it before believed the campaign had not been shown enough.

The campaign's strongest attributes remain that it is informative, clear and credible, making viewers think more positively about the South Australian resources sector. This feedback will inform SACOME's approach towards the design of the 2025 campaign.

South Australians who know about the state's resources sector



Community knowledge and understanding of the South Australian resources sector has strengthened significantly over the 2024 campaign and is now at its highest level since tracking began in 2019.

## SACOME 2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

# STEM Digital Technology Education Program

SACOME calls for the South Australian Government to fund the implementation of the STEM Digital Technology Education Program to provide a tangible link between the State Government's two education initiatives – the three-year-old preschool program and the technical colleges.

The STEM Digital Technology Education Program aims to teach fundamental STEM skills, increase student interest in technology-based career pathways, and support a future pipeline of skilled workers crucially needed for the South Australian resources sector, and to meet the challenges of decarbonisation, industrial transformation and energy transition.

Teaching science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in schools is vital to ensuring South Australia keeps pace with technological change relevant to advancing its economic and social goals.

In May 2024, SACOME launched the Digital Technology Education Program supported by industry partners BHP, Nyrstar, Hillgrove Resources, Fortescue and SIMEC Mining.

This SACOME-funded pilot program was implemented in six Catholic Education schools:

- St Barbara's Parish School, Roxby Downs
- St Mark's College, Port Pirie
- St Francis de Sales College, Mt Barker
- Caritas College, Port Augusta
- Samaritan College, Whyalla
- St Aloysius College, Adelaide

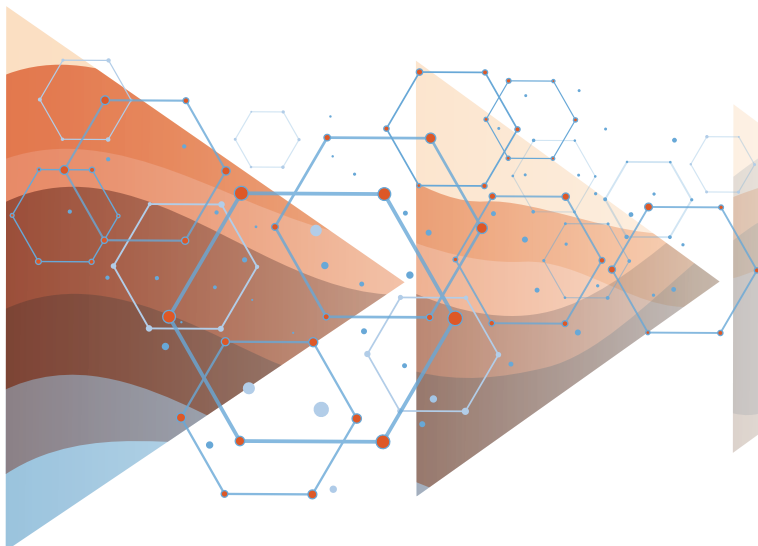
The Program is based on the highly successful Digital Technologies Program implemented by the Chamber of Minerals and Energy Western Australia (CMEWA) at over 70 schools in regional WA, with expansion to a further 200 schools as a next step. It is also presently being considered for introduction into State schools by the Queensland Government.

Based on the positive response from students and educators to the pilot program, and supporting data from CMEWA, SACOME calls on the South Australian Government to implement the Digital Technology Education Program in South Australian State schools to support the pipeline of students required for the resources, advanced manufacturing and engineering sectors.

Investment in the STEM Digital Technology Program would ensure that more students across South Australia benefit from high-quality STEM education, fostering a new generation of innovators and problem-solvers who will be critical to our state's economic and technological development.

SACOME progressed discussions with the Treasurer and Minister for Education regarding expansion of the STEM Digital Technology Education Program to South Australian State schools in 2024.

Securing funding for the Program's expansion is a key priority in 2025.





South  
Australian  
Chamber  
Of  
Mines &  
Energy

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