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Attention: Growth Management Team
Planning and Land Use Services
Department for Housing and Urban Development
GPO Box 1815
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Via email: plansasubmissions@sa.gov.au

Submission to Plan SA Draft Regional Plans Consultation Process

The South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME) is the leading industry association representing the South Australian resource and energy sector, a powerhouse of the State's economy.

SACOME welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to Plan SA's Regional Plan consultation process and acknowledges that the intent of these Regional Plans is to *'guide sustainable growth by identifying land use and long-term infrastructure over a 15 to 30-year period.'*

South Australia's regions are of fundamental importance to the resources sector with the overwhelming majority of our sector's activity occurring in regional and remote parts of the State. Further, South Australia's regions are host to critically important economic activity across diverse industry sectors and are essential drivers of Gross State Product (GSP).

SACOME acknowledges that consultation is being undertaken on six Regional Plans, with issues relevant to the South Australian resources sector being common to the Far North, Yorke & Mid North and Eyre & Western draft Regional Plans.

SACOME provides comment on relevant themes across these Draft Regional Plans.

1. Draft Far North Regional Plan

SACOME notes the following relevant long-term strategic objectives in the Draft Far North Regional Plan:

Theme: Productive Economy – Mineral & energy resources

Long-term strategic objectives

1. *Protect key resources, including associated strategic access routes, transport corridors and pipelines, that contribute to the Far North region's economy.*
2. *Minimise the impacts of encroachments by incompatible land uses to manage risk to public safety, the environment and security of energy supply.*
3. *Adequate separation distances between mining activities, housing and other incompatible development are maintained.*
4. *Facilitate appropriate post-mining land uses.*

Theme: Transport & Infrastructure – Strategic transport networks

Long-term strategic objectives

1. *Facilitate an efficient, reliable and safe transport network that connects business to markets and people to places (including where they live, work, visit and recreate).*
2. *Identify and protect the operations of key strategic transport passenger and freight infrastructure.*
3. *Allow for the future expansion and intensification of strategic transport infrastructure for passenger and freight movements.*
4. *Support an efficient transport system that contributes to reducing emissions.*

Comment

SACOME concurs with analysis in this section of the Draft Far North Regional Plan, noting the importance of the Far North region to the resources sector as host to the Gawler Craton; and to some of South Australia's largest producing mines including Olympic Dam, Prominent Hill and Carrapateena.

The Draft Far North Regional Plan also identifies the future prospectivity of this region, citing BHP's integrated 'copper province' strategy and its Oak Dam exploration prospect.

We note the statement that *'South Australia's share of the nation's mineral resources includes 68% of copper, 26% of gold, 67% of graphite, 10% of iron and 82% of uranium'*, with much of this resource endowment located in the Far North.

SACOME strongly supports the statement made in this section that *'these key resource areas and associated infrastructure, including strategic access routes, transport corridors and pipelines should be protected from the encroachment of incompatible development.'* We further note the prioritisation of 'infrastructure corridors and reserves' as a feature of long-term strategic planning.

This is consistent with SACOME's ongoing advocacy in relation to establishment of infrastructure corridors to enable expedited development of strategic and logistically important infrastructure, maintenance and expansion of important 'economic' transport routes, and facilitation of major pipeline projects like the Northern Water Project.

SACOME also supports the continuing maintenance and upgrade of major regional roads in the Far North, recognising their importance as key freight routes and linkages to export markets.

SACOME emphasises the importance of infrastructure to development of the South Australian resources sector and expresses support for long-term strategic objectives set out in the Draft Far North Regional Plan, recognising they aim to facilitate resource sector development in a manner consistent with SACOME's advocacy positions.

SACOME also makes general comment regarding the importance of housing and civic infrastructure in supporting the attraction and retention of regional workforces necessary for sectoral and State economic growth. This is particularly important in major regional centres and in locations proximate to key resources projects. We note that that Plan SA has given thorough consideration to these issues under the *'People, Housing & Liveability' Theme*.

2. Yorke & Mid North Draft Regional Plan

SACOME notes the following relevant long-term strategic objectives in the Yorke & Mid North Draft Regional Plan:

Theme: Productive Economy – State-significant employment precincts

Long-term strategic objectives

1. *Identify, maintain and support state significant operations by protecting them from encroachment by incompatible and/or more sensitive land uses to ensure their long-term and uninhibited operation.*
2. *Guide local employment land strategic planning to determine the role and function of employment lands and additional policy and investment required to support and grow these precincts.*

Theme: Productive Economy – Mineral & energy resources

Long-term strategic objectives

1. *Protect key resources, including associated strategic access routes, transport corridors and pipelines, that contribute to the Yorke Peninsula and Mid North's economy.*
2. *Establish infrastructure corridors that support infrastructure such as transport, pipelines and energy infrastructure provision to key resource areas*
3. *Minimise the impacts of encroachments by incompatible land uses to manage risk to public safety, the environment and security of energy supply.*
4. *Adequate separation distances between mining activities, housing and other incompatible development are maintained.*
5. *Facilitate appropriate post-mining land uses.*

Theme: Productive Economy -Infrastructure corridors and reserves

Long-term strategic objectives

1. *Identify and set aside land required for future strategic infrastructure corridors and facilities, including to accommodate growth, new technologies and changing demands.*
2. *Infrastructure reserves are planned and coordinated to service multiple uses including opportunities for regional open space and recreation opportunities.*

Theme: Transport & Infrastructure – Strategic transport networks

Long-term strategies

1. *Facilitate an efficient, reliable and safe transport network that connects business to markets and people to places (including where they live, work, visit and recreate).*
2. *Identify and protect the operations of key strategic transport passenger and freight infrastructure.*
3. *Allow for the future expansion and intensification of strategic transport infrastructure and service provision for passenger and freight movements.*
4. *Support an efficient transport system that contributes to reducing emissions.*

Comment

SACOME acknowledges the strategic importance of the Yorke & Mid North region to both the South Australian resources sector and the State economy.

SACOME further notes the importance of the Yorke & Mid North region to the South Australian Government's policy agenda, aimed driving green iron and steel production, energy transition and green industry development outcomes via this region.

We acknowledge the emphasis placed on the Upper Spencer Gulf in the draft Plan and note the following statement:

A large portion of the Upper Spencer Gulf sits within the Yorke Peninsula and Mid North region. The Upper Spencer Gulf is now at the forefront of South Australia's ambitious national and global green energy initiatives.

Boasting world-class wind and solar resources, along with abundant deposits of copper, magnetite, and other critical minerals vital for industrial decarbonisation, the region is a key focus for investment in Australia's sustainable future.

The adoption of 'State significant employment precincts as a planning mechanism is supported, recognising that this measure provides opportunities for coordination of complex industrial, freight and logistical considerations in areas of the State best placed to retain, expand and evolve industrial activity relevant to strategic growth objectives.

SACOME recognises the importance of key regional centres like Port Pirie for 'value adding' of commodities via smelter processing. We also acknowledge new copper mining activity on the Yorke Peninsula at the Hillside mine and the opportunities for economic diversification this provides the region.

We note that strategic transport routes that connect the Braemar iron region to Port Pirie are being given consideration under the draft Plan. SACOME is supportive of measures that enable project development by linking existing and emerging resources projects to transport/logistics routes and, ultimately, the broader supply/value chain.

SACOME also emphasises the importance of major initiatives like the Northern Water Project to the region, recognising that it provides a critical input to a range of existing and future industrial activities in the Yorke & Mid North. Additionally, prioritisation of 'infrastructure corridors and reserves is supported.

SACOME submits that the long-term strategic objectives identified in the Draft York and Mid North Regional Plan are consistent with its long-standing advocacy objectives.

3. Eyre & Western Draft Regional Plan

SACOME notes the following relevant long-term strategic objectives in the Draft Eyre & Western Regional Plan:

Theme: Productive Economy – Mineral & energy resources

Long-term strategic objectives

- 1. Protect key resources, including associated strategic access routes, transport corridors and pipelines, that contribute to the Eyre and Western's economy.*
- 2. Establish infrastructure corridors that support infrastructure such as transport, pipelines and energy infrastructure provision to key resource areas.*
- 3. Minimise the impacts of encroachments by incompatible land uses to manage risk to public safety, the environment and security of energy supply.*
- 4. Adequate separation distances between mining activities, housing and other incompatible development are maintained.*

5. *Facilitate appropriate post-mining land uses.*

Theme Transport & Infrastructure - Strategic transport networks

Long-term strategic objectives

1. *Facilitate an efficient, reliable and safe transport network that connects business to markets and people to places (including where they live, work, visit and recreate).*
2. *Identify and protect the operations of key strategic transport passenger and freight infrastructure.*
3. *Resilient transport infrastructure including emergency landing strips and road connections to remote townships to maintain access to essential services.*
4. *Allow for the future expansion and intensification of strategic transport infrastructure for passenger and freight movements.*
5. *Support an efficient transport system that contributes to reducing emissions.*

Comment

SACOME supports the focus placed on development of new resources and energy projects in the Eyre & Western region as part of long term strategic planning.

The strong emphasis placed on transport and enabling infrastructure in the Draft Plan is supported, recognising the importance of road, rail and port infrastructure to the operation of the South Australian resources sector.

SACOME notes the emphasis placed on ports in this Draft Plan and highlights the importance of aligning project development timeframes with required export capacity.

SACOME notes that the region's transport network incorporates 'major national highways, strategic freight routes, alongside key transport facilities including airstrips, seaport, intermodal and bulk handling facilities' and agrees with the rationale adopted by Plan SA that 'these transport systems are of strategic significance and are therefore planned, delivered and protected differently to local transport networks.

We again note the emphasis placed on the Northern Water Project in this Draft Plan as providing a new, climate-independent water source for the region, and as an enabler of emerging green industries.

We also note the Eyre & Western region is identified as most prospective region for development of new renewable energy projects and associated infrastructure. SACOME supports the proposition that existing and future energy infrastructure is protected from incompatible land uses and activities via strategic infrastructure corridors.

Consistent with comment on the draft Plans above, SACOME supports the use of infrastructure corridors to expedite project development, and the development of housing and civic infrastructure to support regional workforce attraction and retention.

4. Conclusion

SACOME expresses general support for the rationale, themes and strategic objectives set out in the Far North, Yorke & Mid North, and Eyre & Western Draft Regional Plans.

SACOME remains committed to working collaboratively with Plan SA and the South Australian Government in progressing long-term strategic outcomes that facilitate the development of South Australian resources projects.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Knol

Chief Executive Officer

South Australian Chamber of Mines & Energy