



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Securing viability of Port Pirie smelter vital to Upper Spencer Gulf region**

Member for Grey, Tom Venning, is urging the Albanese Government to consider any lever possible to ensure the long-term viability of the Nyrstar smelter at Port Pirie.

“The news that Nyrstar is facing the serious prospect of being shut down unless it receives a financial lifeline is very worrying,” said Mr Venning.

“The Port Pirie smelter directly employs about 900 people - our region would suffer serious economic impacts if the smelter were to close. The smelter has been in continuous operation for over 135 years.”

“I have recently held talks with Nyrstar and assured them that I will support their efforts to remain viable.

“In the briefings I received, Nyrstar explained that global market conditions - particularly in China - are making the business financially unsustainable. They’re seeking transitional support to invest in upgrades that would allow the smelter to process critical minerals like antimony.

Mr Venning highlighted that wages and energy costs are among the most significant pressures on the operation.

“Lower energy prices and the need for a reliable, stable energy supply are critical to the future of all industries.

Mr Venning said he would support any moves by the federal government to assist Nyrstar during this difficult time.

“Our region’s heavy industry relies on the survival of both the Whyalla steelworks and the Nyrstar smelter.

“The sooner we can provide certainty to workers and the businesses that support these operations, the better. I will do everything in my power to support the survival of both.”

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