



TOM VENNING MP

Member for Grey



MEDIA RELEASE

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BHP EXPANSION REQUIRES “NATION BUILDING” NORTHERN WATER ACTION

Tom Venning MP has welcomed BHP’s commitment to investing \$840 million into the Olympic Dam mine at Roxby Downs, which sits within his electorate of Grey. The jobs boost and show of confidence in the future of Olympic Dam is welcome, but it highlights the importance of State and Federal action on the Northern Water Project.

Quotes attributable to Tom Venning, Member for Grey

“BHP’s \$840 million investment into Olympic Dam, located right here in Grey, is more than just a figure, it’s a clear signal of a long-term commitment to our region. It demonstrates confidence in our workforce and the area’s immense mineral wealth.”

“This is fantastic news for our communities. The projects are expected to create at least 250 construction and operational jobs initially, with potential for even more operational roles as the expansion matures, however this is dependent on access to water.”

“The scope of this expansion underscores the issues faced around water security. To support this growth, and that of our remote communities, the Northern Water Project is vital. We cannot afford for this opportunity, and many others, to be squandered due to government inaction and delay.”

“It is understood the State Labor Government is preparing to shift the preferred site for the desalination plant from Cape Hardy to Mullaquana, just south of Whyalla. This decision must be made based on environmental assessments, sound science, and economic sense, and certainly not based on politics.”

“I call on both the State and Federal Government to commit to a timeline and ensure the Northern Water Project is delivered as soon as possible. Securing the necessary water supply is the most important piece of the broader growth puzzle.”

“It is my desire to advocate for the people of Grey, and work with BHP, and all levels of government to ensure that these jobs, and the prosperity they bring, remain in Grey. We must prioritise local hiring and training opportunities for the people of Roxby Downs, Port Augusta, Whyalla, Port Pirie and beyond.”

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