



TOM VENNING MP

Member for Grey



MEDIA RELEASE

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PORT PIRIE DESERVES CONSISTENCY

Premier Malinauskas has informed State Parliament that the State and Federal Governments and Nyrstar are yet to agree on a funding package. Member for Grey Tom Venning MP has suggested that this messaging points to a lack of facts, honesty, and consistency from the both the Premier, and Minister Tim Ayres - the latter of which who is still yet to face the public or provide a briefing on negotiations to Mr Venning.

Prior to the South Australian State Election both the Premier and Minister Ayres posed for photographs in Port Pirie and spoke positively about jobs and the future of Port Pirie, the lead smelter, and the antimony pilot plant. Stating on Feb 17th 2026;

Premier Peter Malinauskas; *“And this is just the start with hopes for future production of not just antimony, but bismuth, tellurium, germanium and indium – all minerals critical to the clean energy transition as well as the defence and technology sectors.”*

Senator the Hon Tim Ayres; *“...shows the value of government backing Aussie manufacturing and minerals processing capabilities to boost regional Australia’s role in the global critical mineral supply chain.”*

These comments stand in contrast to the Premiers’ comments in the media last week; *“Yes, I’m concerned. OK. And I have been for some time. That’s the honest answer.”*

Quotes attributable to Tom Venning MP Member for Grey

“The Premier and Minister Ayres are saying one thing and doing another. If things were still uncertain in February, March or April...why wasn’t the public informed?”

“Messaging is critical here, these are people with families, jobs and mortgages. To be so positive about the future only a matter of months ago, and now to be suggest ‘concern’ has existed for some time feels inconsistent at best, disingenuous at worst.”

“I have reached out to Minister Ayres for a briefing on the state of negotiations from a federal point of view but have yet to be provided with one. Nyrstar have been forthcoming; but more information is needed on this issue for the public.”

“The people of Port Pirie deserve consistency, not to be used as a pre-election prop.”

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