



# TOM VENNING MP

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## Member for Grey



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### VENNING BACKS STATE LIB'S PUSH FOR PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO NTSA

Member for Grey Tom Venning MP has backed the SA Liberal Party and Liberal MLC Nicola Centofanti's calls for a Parliamentary Inquiry into the wider actions of the National Trust of South Australia (NTSA). Closer to home, in the past few weeks Mr Venning and his office have been looking into the NTSA's handling of the Moonta Mines Heritage Precinct specifically, describing the abrupt closure of vital tourism assets and the disbanding of the local volunteer National Trust of SA Moonta Branch as a disappointing chapter.

Mr Venning believes the heavy-handed intervention has damaged the town of Moonta and alienated over 110 local volunteers who built the precinct's success, and triggered distress across the region. In response to the escalating crisis, Mr. Venning has requested a 'please explain' from National Trust South Australia, calling for transparency regarding head office's operational methods and their strategy for resolving this dispute.

While Mr Venning has backed the Parliamentary Inquiry he has made sure to point out that his advocacy and that of his State Liberal colleagues is not about an attack on the NTSA or CEO Nicolette Di Lernia it is about giving all parties a chance to have their say in a transparent and open way, and ensuring we can go some way to restoring confidence in the NTSA.

#### Quotes attributable to Tom Venning MP Member for Grey

*"It is important to note that the NTSA is an independent body, and government cannot force them to reverse decisions. However, I have requested the NTSA provide a clear plan to resolve this impasse. Crucially, I have also requested that the NTSA refrain from using the Moonta Mines' UNESCO World Heritage listing to publicly justify their actions."*

*"I support my state Liberal colleagues, in particular Nicola Centofanti MLC who has been advocating for the volunteers not just here in Moonta, but also in places like Burra, Remark, and Millicent. Pushing for a Parliamentary Inquiry is a positive step, but I am hopeful that sooner rather than later the NTSA can make the first move and come back to the table."*

*"As my state colleagues have said, this is not about an attack on the NTSA or CEO Nicolette Di Lernia it is about giving all parties a chance to have their say in a transparent and open way and ensuring we can start to restore some confidence in organisations like the NTSA."*

*"Reports of escalating tensions, and threats of legal action here in Moonta are highly concerning to me and my office, which is exactly why the NTSA, and all parties need to drop the adversarial approach and commit to genuine, face-to-face mediation to resolve this immediately."*

**END**

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