



TOM VENNING MP

Member for Grey



MEDIA RELEASE

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WHYALLA WORRIES AFTER STEELWORKS DECLARED A 'FISCAL RISK'

Tom Venning MP has expressed concern over the Federal Government's \$409 million taxpayer-funded lifeline for the Whyalla steelworks being declared a 'fiscal risk' in the latest budget papers. Mr Venning feels this raises serious questions about the ongoing viability and management of the facility. With the site's aging blast furnace offline since early April and the State Government warning that even more funds may be required, the \$2.6 billion joint rescue package is clearly under immense pressure.

Mr Venning is concerned that the Whyalla community is being left in the dark, due to State and Federal Labor wanting to keep 'politically inconvenient truths' from the community. Mr Venning has called on the State and Federal Government to be upfront, so that families and businesses can make informed judgments about their futures.

Quotes attributable to Tom Venning Member for Grey

"While not unexpected, the federal budget papers listing the Whyalla steelworks as a fiscal risk proves that the current rescue package is built on highly uncertain grounds."

"The Whyalla community and local contractors are clearly frustrated by the lack of transparency; they deserve to know exactly what is happening at the plant rather than being drip-fed excuses because the truth is politically inconvenient."

"We need the State and Federal Governments to urgently step up, secure this vital industrial asset, and ensure the ongoing sale process provides absolute clarity for Whyalla before any more taxpayer dollars, and peoples livelihoods are put at risk."

"At its core this is about providing the people of Whyalla with a sense of certainty and returning a feeling of calm to the city so that families and business can move forward."

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