



TOM VENNING MP

Member for Grey



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\$1 BILLION LATER, WHYALLA WORKERS PAY THE PRICE

The expected announcement of up to 500 redundancies at the Whyalla Steelworks is devastating news for workers, their families and the wider Whyalla community, but it is also a damning indictment of the Federal and State Government's handling of the steelworks.

Australia's only sovereign structural steelmaking capability has stopped, with more than \$1 billion in public money been poured into the steelworks since April. Now hundreds of workers are facing the prospect of losing their jobs.

For ten years, Whyalla has been subjected to grand visions, government interventions and political announcements, while the fundamentals of making steel have too often been ignored.

We have seen the promise of a hydrogen revolution, hundreds of millions of dollars committed to a hydrogen project that was ultimately shelved, two administrations and now hundreds of workers facing redundancy.

The Government has repeatedly asked South Australia to trust their plan for Whyalla, while resident and workers have been left in the dark about the future of the steelworks.

Federal member for Grey Tom Venning MP said Whyalla workers should not be the ones paying the price for Labor's failure to get this right.

"I have repeatedly raised serious questions about the ongoing viability and management of the facility," Mr Venning said.

"How can the Government justify more than a billion dollars in taxpayer support when hundreds of workers are now staring down the barrel of redundancy?"

"This is not simply about jobs. It is about families, local businesses, tradies, contractors and a community whose economy has been built around this industry for generations.

"When jobs disappear from a community like Whyalla, the impact does not stop at the steelworks gate. It flows through local shops, cafes, sporting clubs and small businesses.



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"The Whyalla community has carried the steelworks through some incredibly difficult times. They deserve certainty, stability and a future. Instead, they are getting another blow to the jobs and industry their town was built around.

"Steelmaking does not care about political slogans. It needs reliable energy, affordable energy, investment, productivity and the ability to compete in international markets.

"My objective is simple: I want Whyalla to make steel for the next 50 years. I want good, well-paid jobs in Whyalla. I want a sovereign steel industry in South Australia.

"But that requires governments to stop chasing the next announcement and start fixing the fundamentals.

"The people of Whyalla deserve a viable steelworks, secure jobs and a genuine long-term plan, not another short-term political fix that leaves workers carrying the uncertainty."

You can hear Tom speak in Parliament on Whyalla [here](#).

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