

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **RDA FAR NORTH RELEASES AN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR PORT AUGUSTA**

Regional Development Australia Far North (RDAFN) is pleased to announce and release an Economic Growth and Investment Strategy for Port Augusta. The strategy identifies key areas, projects or activities which will have immediate, medium and long-term economic benefits for the city and informs a targeted and strategic approach to project selection, maximizing the economic benefits for the City.

RDAFN Chair, Dr Jen Cleary said “One of our key priorities has been to facilitate the development of economic growth and investments strategies with local government stakeholders across our region. We are delighted to see these now coming to fruition. For Port Augusta, industry growth and investment are vital - particularly as the city grapples with the impact of the recent closure of the Power stations. A clear economic and investment strategy is a critical first step for the city to plan its economic and social future. RDAFN will work with Port Augusta City Council and other important stakeholder to identify key areas in the Strategy through which RDAFN will concentrate its focus and work in Port Augusta for the next two years.”

Mayor Sam Johnson said “Port Augusta City Council welcomes the release of the Economic Growth and Investment Strategy for Port Augusta. The collective effort of all levels of Government and industry is necessary to achieve a sustainable economic future for the City. The development of the Economic Growth Strategy is a good example of working partnerships targeting economic benefits for the City and Council looks forward to working with RDAFN including this strategy as part of its strategic planning for the city.”

Geoff Brock, Minister for Regional Development said “Port Augusta is a key regional city for South Australia, and the outcomes of the economic growth strategy will have flow on effects not only for the broader Upper Spencer Gulf area and Far North region but also for the whole state.”

RDAFN Chief Executive Officer, Claire Wiseman said, “RDAFN is currently undertaking its annual planning processes with our Board and staff. This strategy is a key piece of work in determining, and defining our team’s work effort in Port Augusta for the next two years. We are keen to commence working on prioritised areas identified through our internal planning processes and stakeholder engagement”.

Dr Cleary went on to say, “Bringing together these critical stakeholders is exactly the kind of work RDAFN does, so we are thrilled with this result. I acknowledge and thank the Port Augusta City Council, Alinta Energy and PIRSA, for their willingness to support this important work for Port Augusta. The Port Augusta City Council has been a vital partner in the development of this approach and we will continue to work closely together to chart a clear way forward. There is still a lot of work to do from a broader regional perspective and RDAFN will continue to work with our regional stakeholders on the challenges and opportunities for our region into the future.”

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