



## **S.A – ON THE HORIZON**

A dramatic wave of mining exploration across the outback and a bustling defence hub under construction in Adelaide is fuelling a transformation of the South Australian economy with both the mining and defence industries setting a platform for unprecedented development across the state in the next decade.

Forecasters are predicting a significant boost in the state's economic performance in the next two years as projects in both industries now in the development phase switch to production.

Major projects worth \$45 billion are in various stages of construction and consideration - 80 per cent of them related to the demands of mining and defence and the urban development needed to cope with both.

An economy that was for so long reliant on its manufacturing and agricultural sectors is now surging toward joining the mining-boom states of Queensland and Western Australia as one of the economic drivers of the nation.

“We are on the cusp really of some great developments and it may well be that South Australia is one of the fastest growing economies - off a smaller base - than a number of other states and territories over the next five to 10 years.”

There is a near-record high level of migration from overseas - the highest intake in 30 years, contributing to the population growth.

Many advisory and consultancy groups rate Adelaide as the most cost-competitive city within Australia, one of the world's least expensive cities and one of its most liveable.

Property prices are stable and remain affordable with new housing developments sprouting around Adelaide and in regional areas where mining growth will bring new workers, business and supply needs.



## **S.A – ON THE HORIZON Cont...**

This year the mining behemoth BHP Billiton is expected to give the go-ahead to the massive expansion of Olympic Dam - its copper, gold and uranium treasure trove - in the heart of South Australia almost 600km north-west of Adelaide. The project will have an immense impact on the state's economy requiring the biggest expansion of existing facilities ever undertaken in the global resources industry.

The present underground mine will be developed into the biggest open-cut pit on the planet with an eight-fold increase in gold production, a five-fold lift in uranium output and huge increase in copper tonnages and its production will continue for the next century. New ports, roads, rail lines will be needed as well as a huge water desalination plant and new power stations with estimates the mine's development will generate 25,000 direct and indirect jobs over the coming decade.

South Australia is also recognised as one of the best locations to tap the other "green energy" sources of solar, wind and wave power. The state already produces the most solar and wind power in the nation with 10 operating wind farms and an 11th being built.

In the defence sector the outlook is equally bright where plans to become a major military hub are coming to fruition.

The state is also outperforming the nation in terms of higher education student growth with numbers increasing by 7.9 per cent last year compared to a 3.9 per cent rise nationally. Twenty five thousand international students will enrol in educational courses this year.

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