



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Monday, 16 March 2015

# **EMINENT EXPERTS TO BROADEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON NUCLEAR IN SA**

The South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME) will hold a seminar next week (Tuesday 17 March) to help increase awareness and broaden discussions on the greater role South Australia could play in the nuclear cycle.

International nuclear expert, Dr Tim Stone CBE, will present at the event together with Adelaide's own climate change expert Ben Heard and the World Nuclear Association's Ian Hore-Lacy. The panel will discuss the current use of nuclear energy and technologies employed around the globe, the lessons learnt and some of the options available to South Australia.

Dr Stone CBE is a Visiting Professor with the University College London (Australia) and has led many nuclear programs and reviews in a variety of expert roles, including Chair of Britain's Office for Nuclear Development. While in Adelaide, he has presented at a variety of events and lectures to share his knowledge and expand South Australia's discussion on nuclear.

SACOME Acting Chief Executive, Dr Nigel Long, said "We welcome the State Government's nous and maturity in bringing the subject of nuclear front and centre, and effectively taking the lead in a national discussion that is overdue."

"The announcement of the Royal Commission has expanded discussions in the community that we are keen to encourage."

Dr Long said South Australians are educated and aware of the large role nuclear plays in reducing emissions around the globe and eager to gain a better understanding of modern nuclear power and the genuine opportunities and risks.

"It is clear that the South Australian public is open and ready for a mature nuclear debate, putting the old emotive arguments aside to focus on the realities of modern day nuclear in the context of our domestic environment."

A SACOME 2013 survey revealed the majority of South Australians are open to exploring the State's role in the entire nuclear fuel cycle chain, including uranium mining, enrichment, storage, and power production.

"Our survey found that 63% supported nuclear to assist in mitigating climate change, and 62% supported further job opportunities in the uranium industry," Dr Long said.

**SACOME: Mines & Energy House, 290 Glen Osmond Road Fullarton South Australia 5063**  
T: +61 8 8202 9999 F: +61 8 8202 9900 E: [sacome@sacome.org.au](mailto:sacome@sacome.org.au) W: [www.sacome.org.au](http://www.sacome.org.au)

*Representing, promoting and protecting the resources industry of South Australia*

These attitudes are supported by a current *Advertiser* poll, with recent media on the nuclear discussion also indicating South Australians are no longer being led by emotive arguments based on old technology and safety myths.

South Australia is host to 25% of the world's known uranium resource and the largest Australian exporter of uranium to the global market.

Dr Long said "It makes sense that South Australia should consider taking advantage of our natural resources, our location, our capabilities and our existing position in the nuclear fuel cycle."

"We applaud the State Government in taking this progressive step and look forward to continuing our involvement in the Commission while broadening discussion and awareness through communications and events such as our coming seminar."

The seminar next week is open to SACOME members only, with several additional places available to the media.

The International Panel on Climate Change recently reported that the world will need to deploy all low and zero carbon electricity sources, including nuclear power, to assist in mitigating the effects of climate change. South Australia's uranium currently mitigates approximately 85 to 170 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, assisting in the challenge to mitigate the effects of climate change.

---

Further information: Dr Nigel Long, Acting Chief Executive, SACOME 08 8202 9999 or 0448 848 038 (Seminar information Megan Andrews, Director Membership & Communications 0448 84 85 86)