



19 August 2020

Minister Corey Wingard  
Minister for Transport, Sport, Recreation and Racing, South Australia  
By email: [ministerwingard@sa.gov.au](mailto:ministerwingard@sa.gov.au)

Dear Minister,

### **Support of the proposed Cape Hardy multi-commodity port project in South Australia**

On behalf of the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies, may I congratulate you on your recent elevation to the portfolios of Transport and Infrastructure. These portfolios underpin the long-term development of South Australia and are crucial in the post-COVID-19 recovery.

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies is a national industry body representing over 275 mining and mineral exploration companies across Australia, with 19 member companies actively exploring, mining, and developing projects in South Australia. The mining and exploration industry make a critical contribution to the Australian economy, employing over 255,000 people. In 2017/18, these companies collectively paid over \$31 billion in royalties and taxation, invested \$36.1 billion in new capital, and generated more than \$250 billion in mineral exports.

We would like to highlight Dog Fence Road (Yeelanna-Ungarra) on the Eyre Peninsula as a priority for your portfolio.

Sealing this key East-West Eyre Peninsula road will allow for increased and safer grain freight movements and assist in unlocking the private Australian financing required to develop Cape Hardy port. It will also facilitate logistics for future minerals export from the Eyre Peninsula, drive greater mining and mineral exploration, and allow the Government to solve the conundrum of the location for a deep-water port on the Spencer Gulf.

Iron Road Ltd is currently undertaking a Development Application variation to allow for the staged construction of the port. During Stage II of this development, Cape Hardy would become South Australia's only deep-sea port capable of loading Cape-size vessels. The port will also have the capacity to facilitate the import of low-volume, high-value cargoes. Infrastructure SA's 20-Year Strategy<sup>1</sup> outlines Cape Hardy's ongoing benefits through grain supply chain savings, a competitive edge, and an increased freight handling capacity.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.infrastructure.sa.gov.au/our-work/20-year-strategy>

South Australia's identified prospective green hydrogen export industry referenced the need for a port, with specialist hydrogen infrastructure developer H2U executing an agreement with Iron Road Ltd to collectively develop the multi-user, multi-commodity Cape Hardy<sup>2</sup>.

In December 2019 Iron Road's Cape Hardy project received a \$25M grant commitment from the Federal Government. The Federal Government recognised the economic growth potential and long term benefits for regional stakeholders by bringing together agriculture, mining, green manufacturing and indigenous business into a multi-user, multi-commodity manufacturing and export hub.

In 2016, Cape Hardy port was identified as one of the nation's priority projects by Infrastructure Australia. It is the only South Australian project classified as an Opportunity for Growth, one of only four across the nation.

AMEC has consistently supported the development of the Cape Hardy port and has urged the South Australian Government to name Cape Hardy as the location of a preferred new port facility in South Australia. Ongoing support from the Commonwealth, along with formal engagement processes, validates Cape Hardy as the most optimal port location for the Eyre Peninsula. State Government acknowledgment would fulfill an election commitment to prioritise the development of a minerals capable export port on the Eyre Peninsula.

Cape Hardy has strong and widespread local community support, including from the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association (EPLGA) member councils and Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula (RDAEP). The project has an Indigenous Land Use Agreement registered with the Native Title Tribunal and received EPBC approval (EPBC 2014/7285) on 9 March 2018.

Furthermore, the proponent has already received over 50 formal expressions of interest from various parties to support the proposed port.

I would appreciate the opportunity for you to meet with AMEC and some of our South Australian member companies via videoconference to discuss Dog Fence Road, and to outline the Cape Hardy Port development. If possible, please can I ask your office to identify a suitable time and contact Dayna O'Leary at [admin@amec.org.au](mailto:admin@amec.org.au), or on 08 9320 5150 at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely



**Warren Pearce**  
Chief Executive Officer

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.renewablessa.sa.gov.au/content/uploads/2019/09/south-australias-hydrogen-action-plan-online.pdf>