

News releases - Geoff Brock

\$200,000 grant for Port Augusta training facility

Geoff Brock July 13, 2016

Job seekers and businesses in the Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback will have greater access to local training opportunities thanks to a new purpose-built training facility in Port Augusta.

Access Training Centre has been offered a \$200,000 Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program grant to develop a training facility that will address the increased demand for training throughout the Upper Spencer Gulf area across a number of industries.

The facility will include offices, training and conference facilities that will be available to industry, community and other registered training organisations.

The \$650,000 project will create five ongoing full time jobs in addition to 10 jobs during construction.

Background

Access Training Centre is a registered training organisation that has been servicing industry across both regional and metropolitan South Australia for over 20 years.

The \$2 million Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program is a once-off grants program, opened in November 2015 in recognition of the challenges brought about by the downturn of the resources sector and the impending closure of the Port Augusta power station and Leigh Creek coal mine.

Grants have been made available from \$50,000 up to \$200,000 in 2015-16 for small projects in the eligible area.

The program supports the delivery of small projects that will contribute to economic diversification, resilience and capacity building of Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback communities, creating sustainable economic benefits to the region and the State.

This project aligns with the State Government's economic priorities of *Unlocking the full potential of South Australia's resources, energy and renewable assets* and *Growth through innovation*.

Quotes attributable to Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock

Projects awarded funding through the Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program will stimulate new business activity, support stronger communities, and create job opportunities in the region.

This new training facility in Port Augusta will give regional industries and job seekers access to cost effective training and development. By up-skilling the local labour force we can reduce the region's reliance on imported labour.

Local job seekers will now have access to tickets, licenses and skills training to help them gain employment.

It's encouraging to see that Access Training Centre will be making the facilities available to industry, community and other training organisations to deliver their own programs.

Quotes attributable to Access Training Centre Regional Manager Mandy Jordan

Access Training Centre has been expanding its operations in the Upper Spencer Gulf, and this grant will assist us in establishing a purpose-built facility to cater for our diverse training needs.

The cost of sending staff away for training has traditionally prevented many businesses from accessing training and up-skilling staff, and affects the ability of job seekers to access training.

It will mean less industry down time for training and a shorter waiting period for accessing training programs, and will increase the amount of training undertaken in the region.