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Media Release: RDAEP Welcomes Government action and support package for Whyalla Steelworks, Contractors and Workers

24 February 2025

Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula (RDAEP) welcomes the decisive action taken by the South Australian Government to place the Whyalla Steelworks into administration, alongside the Australian and State Governments' announcement of a \$2.4 billion package which will be delivered in three parts: immediate on-the-ground support, stabilisation and investing in the steelwork's future.

"The Whyalla Steelworks plays a vital role in manufacturing and infrastructure sectors, producing 75% of Australia's structural steel and supporting over 3,000 direct and indirect jobs. Ensuring its stability and future growth is essential for the region's economy and Australia's sovereign steel-making capability" said Regional Development South Australia (RDSA) Chair Rob Kerin.

The passing of new legislation in Parliament to move the current owner into administration, coupled with the \$2.4 billion support package announced by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Premier Peter Malinauskas, represents a critical turning point for the Whyalla community and broader region. This move provides much-needed certainty and assurance for workers, businesses, and contractors who rely on the steelworks for their livelihoods, while also sending a strong signal to potential investors about the long-term viability of steel production in Whyalla.

"RDAEP has been actively engaging with the Australian and State Government over the past six months, providing local insights gathered from Whyalla businesses and workers who have accessed RDAEP's support services. This collaboration has contributed to the immediate and long-term responses required to sustain Whyalla's economic future" said RDAEP CEO Ryan Viney.

This significant funding boost for Whyalla will complement RDAEP's Small Business Fundamentals Program, which has been offering one-on-one business mentoring, including financial management support. Furthermore, the \$6 million commitment for a Jobs Matching and Skills Hub is something the region has been advocating for and will see the continuation of the Career Transition Service RDAEP is currently providing to assist impacted workers.

RDAEP Chair Bryan Trigg said, *"This announcement is a positive outcome for Whyalla, it provides a clear path forward for workers, businesses, and the broader community. The government's intervention ensures continued operations at the steelworks while laying the foundation for long-term investment and innovation in steel manufacturing"*.

RDAEP remains committed to supporting local businesses and workers through this transition and will continue to work closely with all stakeholders to deliver essential services and assistance.

RDAEP encourages any businesses or workers impacted by the recent job losses and redundancies in Whyalla to reach out for assistance through the following services:

- **Career Transition Service:** Contact Paula Wilson at paula.wilson@rdaep.org.au
- **Small Business Fundamentals Program:** Contact Tamsin Scholz at tamsin.scholz@rdaep.org.au

RDAEP stands ready to support the Whyalla community during this period of change and remains dedicated to ensuring the region's continued prosperity.

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