

STATE BUDGET

2021-22

MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND MINING HON DAN VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN MP MEDIA RELEASE

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Prominent Test for Mining Innovation

The Marshall Liberal Government is investing \$8 million in the establishment of the Arkani Ngura National Test Mine and Innovation Centre that will deliver a globally significant underground test mine at the existing OZ Minerals Prominent Hill Mine.

The National Test Mine will support the development and commercialisation of technology in the resources, space and defence sectors in partnership with industry.

“From the potential to store hydrogen underground to the testing of prototype mining and defence equipment this new facility will place South Australia at the forefront of industrial innovation,” said Minister for Energy and Mining Dan van Holst Pellekaan.

“The State Budget’s \$1.1 million commitment to a state-of-the-art spectral geoscience instrument (HyLogger 4 and Raman Spectroscopy) for the State Drill Core Library will build upon the Accelerated Discovery Initiative (ADI) to help discover the resources that will become the mines of the future.

“The ADI has awarded a number of exploration companies almost \$4.5 million to push the boundaries of traditional exploration in pursuit of the next Olympic Dam or Carrapateena-class deposit and the enormous economic benefits those operations bring to the state.

“The ADI funding is an investment in a future where South Australia has the tools and knowledge to efficiently utilise its available mineral resources.

“The State Budget 2021-22 also has \$2.2 million over the next four years to expand the free, confidential and independent Landowner Information Service to support landowners in engaging with mineral exploration companies.

“The Budget also continues to deliver the Marshall Government’s focused transition to net-100% renewable energy through a range of programs that have put South Australia at the forefront of the use of renewable energy and slashed the price of electricity for all South Australians.

“Our \$13.4 million investment in a state-wide electric vehicle fast charging network will jump start electric vehicle uptake and supports the policy to transition the state fleet to electric vehicles, which in turn will make second hand electric vehicles more readily available in the South Australian used vehicle market as those vehicles are put on the block at the State Government vehicle auctions.

“Our \$4.25 million Switch for Solar program pilot is providing eligible concession recipients the choice to switch to a free solar system delivering hundreds of dollars in savings to households in some of Adelaide’s north eastern suburbs as well as Goolwa and Hindmarsh Island.

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“\$60 million in energy efficiency upgrades for government buildings will deliver jobs for tradespeople and lead by example in reducing carbon emissions.

“South Australia’s world leading investment in supporting the rollout of home batteries to tens of thousands of public and private residences continues and now includes a trial of public housing tenants being provided with home batteries without accompanying solar systems.

“This world-first aspect of Phase 3 of the SA Virtual Power Plant (VPP) will see those 20 homes provided with the same benefits as the 4,100 properties that will have solar systems and home batteries installed, in particular much cheaper electricity.

“The decision by ElectraNet and Transgrid to proceed with Project EnergyConnect will see \$53 million in early works funding returned to taxpayers and deliver the average South Australian household another \$100 in annual savings to add to the \$269 in savings already achieved since the Marshall Government’s election.”