



## ***Uranium mining in South Australia: support and regulation***

Although supported by Australian governments, South Australia's uranium industry is under close scrutiny to ensure compliance with safety and environmental regulations. South Australia has a 100-year history in uranium mining.

### **What's the history of uranium mining in South Australia?**

South Australia has around a century of history in uranium mining. The industry in this state holds significant know-how, a skilled workforce and a strong international reputation for safe mining of uranium.

- The first South Australian uranium ores were mined in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century at Radium Hill and Mount Painter to recover radium for medical purposes.
- The Olympic Dam project started in 1988 as a joint venture of Western Mining Corporation and PB Minerals, and is now owned and operated by BHP Billiton.
- Beverly and Four Miles mines commenced operation by Heathgate Resources Pty Ltd in 2000, and operations at Honeymoon mine (run by Uranium One) started in 2011.

### **Does the uranium industry have the backing of the South Australian government?**

The government of South Australia is open in its support of uranium exploration and mining. It has streamlined the project approvals process and improved transparency. The regulatory framework promotes efficiency in mining operations, as well as safety and protection of the environment. No uranium exploration or mining is allowed without rigorous technical assessment.

### **How is it governed?**

Uranium exploration and mining in South Australia is governed by:

- Mining Act 1971 and Mining Regulations 2011 made under the Act.
- Radiation Protection and Control Act 1982.
- Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) Act 1982.
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

The Acts and the Regulations require licences for both exploration and mining prior to any work being commissioned. These must also include a Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation before any mining activity commences.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is responsible for the administration of the Environment Protection Act 1993 and the Radiation Protection and Control Act 1982. The Department of State Development has a memorandum of understanding with the EPA to support the consistent and efficient environmental regulation of mineral resources.

### **How does South Australian uranium fit under Australia's international responsibilities?**

The Australian regulatory framework for the uranium industry is widely recognised as being effective and representing world's best practice. Export licences are granted under strict Commonwealth legislation that ensures that uranium is used solely for the generation of electricity.

The Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) examines foreign investment proposals to ensure the investment is in Australia's interest.