



### ***The role of community support in the uranium industry in South Australia***

A successful uranium industry relies on support from the community at large. South Australia's uranium industry must provide accurate and unbiased information to gain trust from the general public.

### **Does the legislation in South Australia ensure that uranium mines operate ethically?**

The legal framework around uranium mining in South Australia is among the most advanced in the nation, also with the specific aim to protect the community over the entire cycle of operations. The law also enforces the respect of traditional landowners' rights. In 2011, the South Australian Roxby Downs Indenture Act – which rules the operation of the Olympic Dam copper-uranium mine – was amended to also ensure compliance with the South Australian Aboriginal Heritage Act. This is an important step, since in the past, such as for the Ranger uranium mine in the NT, there has been the perception of uranium mining expanding on the faultiness of environmental and indigenous land rights policies.

### **What is the Community perception?**

It is very important that the uranium industry provides the community with unbiased information about the impact of uranium mining and processing on the environment, society and any possible health effects. History shows examples of mining companies acting in a non-socially responsible way, but at the same time of community opposition stemming from fear and misinformation rather than true facts.

In South Australia, the original development phase of the Olympic Dam mine in 1983-84 attracted public opposition from Australia's anti-nuclear movement. At the time, more than 400 anti-nuclear activists protested at the Olympic Dam site. Later, environmental approval of the Olympic Dam mine expansion was legally challenged in 2012 by an elder of the Arabunna people, although the case was eventually dismissed.

Since, the resources industry, and mining in particular, has faced growing expectations from community, regulators and industry leaders for pro-active stakeholder engagement.

### **How is Community Engagement promoted?**

The South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME) released the Code of Practice for Community & Stakeholder Engagement and the Code of Conduct for Mineral & Energy Explorers. These publications were established through extensive consultation and input from industry companies, external consultants, and relevant government departments.

Although they are not prescriptive documents, and serve no regulatory function, the Codes outline a framework and principles to assist companies develop their community engagement strategy and incorporate community-based initiatives into their project strategies.