

## Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP

Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy

Monday 6 June, 2016

### **New \$40 million graphite mine for Eyre Peninsula**

A proposed \$40 million graphite mine with the potential to create 90 jobs on the lower Eyre Peninsula has received the first of two key approvals.

Lincoln Minerals Ltd, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Australian Graphite Pty Ltd, has been granted a Mining Lease for its Kookaburra Gully graphite project, north of Port Lincoln.

The project will include an open-cut mine and a processing plant with an annual throughput of 250,000 tonnes to produce about 30,000–50,000 tonnes a year of graphite concentrates.

Lincoln Minerals expects to initially employ 60 people during mine construction with 30 people employed during the seven-plus year operating life of the project.

### **Background**

Australian Graphite applied for a Mining Lease in February 2015 leading to a six-week public consultation period held through September to October 2015.

Graphite is expected to be transported by container from the mine by road to the Port of Adelaide for export.

Australian Graphite and the District Council of Tumby Bay have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that includes negotiating formal agreements for road maintenance and upgrades.

### **Quotes attributable to Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Tom Koutsantonis**

Graphite is a key ingredient required for the production of lithium ion batteries used in mobile phones, electric cars and solar PV storage systems.

Through projects such as Kookaburra Gully, South Australia is emerging as a supplier of graphite to meet the global demand for renewable technologies using lithium ion batteries and solar thermal power generation systems.

Granting a Mining Lease is the first stage of a two-step assessment of a mining proposal.

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The next step in the project is the preparation of a detailed operating plan for the mine, known as a Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation (PEPR).

The development of a PEPR by Lincoln Minerals, prepared in consultation with the stakeholders of the mine, will be rigorously assessed by the Department of State Development.

