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## **OZ Minerals begins next round of investment into regional South Australia**

- OZ Minerals to start involving major contractors for its proposed Carrapateena mine with requirements for local and indigenous involvement.
- Further investment in the Upper Spencer Gulf with preferred site identified for Concentrate Treatment Plant near Port Augusta.
- Community meetings to be held throughout the region.

OZ Minerals has today announced it will accelerate the involvement of major contractors for its proposed Carrapateena copper-gold project with successful bidders required to deliver local content and traditional owner participation.

“We’ve today released details of the next stage of our Carrapateena project,” said OZ Minerals CEO Andrew Cole. “For regional communities an important message is that we are engaging major contractors early and we will be stipulating that they must ensure local business participation,” he said.

“While the scale of the project means that a number of successful bidders may be based outside of the region they will need to demonstrate how they provide employment and other opportunities to local communities. This includes training, heritage protection and knowledge sharing for land connected peoples.”

Mr Cole said discussions with Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation on a Native Title Mining Agreement and associated economic development as part of the project, were advanced.

“We will soon be announcing a series of regional meetings, expected to be in May, so that businesses and communities in the region can better understand the potential for involvement.”

The meetings would also update the community on new developments on the project including the preferred site for a Concentrate Treatment Plant (CTP) near Port Augusta. The plant aims to produce some of the highest grade copper concentrate in the world.

“By building the CTP in the Upper Spencer Gulf we will generate direct employment, through both the construction and operation phases for the whole region including Whyalla, Port Pirie and Port Augusta,” said Mr Cole.

OZ Minerals 2016 Annual and Sustainability Report released this week highlights the Prominent Hill mine delivered \$145.4 million to South Australian regional and local suppliers including contractors.

In addition, another \$2.1 million was spent directly with local business in the Upper Spencer Gulf as part of the Carrapateena project.

Prominent Hill's mine life has been extended to 2028 with consultation underway for changes to the workforce as it transitions from an open pit to underground mine.

Carrapateena is still subject to a regulatory approvals process. If approved, the construction and operational phases combined are expected to deliver over 1000 jobs.

**ENDS**

OZ Minerals full release to the ASX can be viewed at [www.ozminerals.com](http://www.ozminerals.com)

**For all media enquiries please contact:**

Chris Fogarty

T 61 8 8229 6600

M 61 0420 928 824

[Chris.Fogarty@ozminerals.com](mailto:Chris.Fogarty@ozminerals.com)