

News Release Premier Jay Weatherill

Monday, 5 May 2014

Department of State Development to drive growth and create jobs

A new Department of State Development and a project facilitation unit will be established to drive economic growth and create jobs.

The Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade Resources and Energy and the Department of Further Education, Employment and Science and Technology will merge to form the new Department of State Development.

The Department of State Development will:

- Drive and leverage growth in the economy
- Administer Our Jobs Plan
- Coordinate the Government's engagement with small to medium business
- Serve Ministers Gail Gago, Jack Snelling, Tom Koutsantonis and Susan Close

Mr Weatherill said the merger of the Departments and the refocusing of their work will harness the full range of Government levers to drive the transformation of the South Australian economy.

"We are bringing together the portfolios of employment and business to provide stewardship of the next stage of the State's economic transformation," he said.

"The Department of State Development will be the Government's front door to business and will be given the important task of delivering *Our Jobs Plan*."

"This is about creating stronger links between Government and the private sector so that barriers to job creation can be identified and removed."

"The Department will also be given the role of case managing private sector major projects to ensure they are given the best opportunity to succeed."

"If it is red tape we will remove it, if it is bureaucratic delays we will speed it up, if it is finance that is required, we will help them submit a case to the Job Accelerator Fund."

Mr Weatherill said the changes would help the Government realise the agenda set out in the *Let's Keep Building South Australia* policy platform presented at the recent State Election.

"From this week, I will begin a series of visits to South Australian businesses to speak with them about these changes and listen to their ideas for creating jobs," he said.

"This year we will also be delivering a major reform of WorkCover to better support injured workers to return to work and create huge savings for South Australian businesses."

"My Government is committed to working closely with business to deliver jobs growth."

The Government will advertise for the position of Chief Executive for the Department of State Development, which will commence on July 1. Raymond Garrand will act in the interim.