



State's peak energy group welcomes gas grants

THE state's peak resource and energy sector association has welcomed the South Australian Government's \$6m handout to Beach Energy for gas exploration in the South East.

South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy chief executive officer Rebecca Knol said the industry group was "encouraged" by the five grants awarded through the Plan for Accelerating Exploration gas grant program.

"Gas is an important part of the South Australian energy market and is more than just a transition fuel which will help to ensure a reliable supply of natural gas to meet the energy needs of South Australian businesses and households," she said.

"South Australia has the richest

renewable resource per head of population in the world, but requires baseload to capitalise on this advantage.

"Gas will do this and move South Australia closer to a low carbon economy and continue to provide affordability, security and reliability."

Ms Knol said the grants, which aim to increase supply and competition into South Australia's energy market, form part of the \$24m commitment by the State Government to incentivise companies to extract more gas.

"SACOME is supportive of gas exploration in collaboration with landowners," she said.

"The release of the State Government's SA Energy Plan highlights a 10pc royalty return scheme."

Australian Petroleum Production and

Exploration Association SA director Matthew Doman said the grants would bring more gas to market and benefit local business and consumers.

"Unlike other governments which have chosen to lock up their gas resources, South Australia continues to set the pace when it comes to supporting the safe and responsible development of natural gas," he said.

"The local gas industry will now work with the Government and community to help secure reliable, affordable energy supply for South Australians."

Mr Doman said Beach Energy was committed to the responsible development of the state's natural resources.

"The South Australian Government is to be congratulated for this initiative," he said.