



25 August 2014

Level 1, 45 Greenhill Road  
Wayville SA 5034

ABN 76 369 958 788

Tel: 08 8394 0000  
Fax: 08 8394 0099  
www.aigroup.com.au

Hon Susan Close MP  
Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation  
Minister for Automotive Transformation  
Minister for the Public Sector  
GPO Box 11071  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

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File	
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To	
Urgency	
Action	

Dear Minister

### Advanced Manufacturing Council

I am taking the opportunity to respond to your letter of 14 July 2014 where you indicated you would appreciate our views on the continuing role of the Advanced Manufacturing Council

Firstly, I note from your letter that my term as a Member of the Council has been extended until 30 June 2015 and thank you for this opportunity,

Secondly, we recognise the Premier's recent announcement to reform South Australian Government boards and committees.

In relation to the Advanced Manufacturing Council we comment as follows.

Ai Group has a core interest and concern for the State's manufacturing sector and its present period of transition. As an organisation we have a long track record of contributing to debate on public policy issues around manufacturing.

We believe that the manufacturing sector is very important and a key sector of the State's economy and will continue to be so in the future. This position has been underpinned by the work of Professor Göran Roos as Thinker in Residence for manufacturing and other reports which are in the public arena setting out the challenges for the State's manufacturers to transition to new areas of opportunity.

Within that context, the Advanced Manufacturing Council has played an important role in having a direct link to you as the Minister and your predecessors, providing key advice as to changes which are happening in the marketplace and considerations of certain policy responses.

From an Ai Group perspective we are sympathetic to the Government's response to streamline boards and activities and would be willing to consider other more efficient structures for this advice to be directly put to the Minister, such as a sub-committee of the Economic Development Board.

Ai Group would not support the complete abolition of the Advanced Manufacturing Council and its role without a replacement process being put in place.

I would be happy to meet with you and discuss this matter further and would also be keen to understand what options, if any, the Government and you as Minister are considering, to ensure that the key advisory role of the Advanced Manufacturing Council continues into the future, even if under some different format.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Myatt', written in a cursive style.

**Stephen Myatt**  
**Director – SA Branch**