



Uranium SA to go local

By Seema SHARMA

Uranium SA is looking at spending a significant amount of cash on its Mullaquana project which includes shifting its main office from Adelaide to Whyalla.

The company is also seeing the possibility of its exploration and mining time extending from the initially stated five to 10 years to 10 to 15 years.

Company general manager Mullaquana project Alistair Muir said more jobs would be created over the period of time as it would be a 24 hour, seven day operation.

He said the company would be extracting uranium at a global scale

and it would only make sense to set up an office in Whyalla and have skeleton staff in Adelaide.

“Our conservative figure for employment when the project is up and running is 40 to 60 full time workers,” Mr Muir said.

“We also have to talk to training providers to inform them of the skills and trades we may require while hiring people.

“As much as possible we will be hiring locals and provide all the support and training that may be required.

“At the moment we have 13 staff in Whyalla out of which 10 are locals.”

Mr Muir said the company would also focus on contributing towards

community-oriented projects.

He said a local school was in the pipeline of receiving funds to upgrade their kitchen facilities for cooking classes.

“As much as possible we would be purchasing material locally and once the operation is in full scale we expect more jobs,” Mr Muir said.

“We are looking forward to the community consultation phase of things so that the Whyalla public knows more about the project.

“There will be continued community consultation and communication to clear all doubts and worries.”

The company will soon apply for a mining licence for the trial at Mullaquana which is expected to begin later this year.

Full-scale production could begin by the end of next year if the trials are successful.

The company recently announced a boost to its exploration by 50 per cent to 19,000 tonnes - equivalent to more than 42 million pounds of uranium.

The company will have public information sessions from 4pm to 8pm on May 4 and 5 at the Whyalla Yacht Club.



PROGRESSING: Having a chat at the drilling site at Mullaquana were site supervisor Julian Snook (left) and general manager for the project Alistair Muir.