

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

OPEN LETTER: NATIONAL INDUSTRY POLICY MUST INCLUDE BELL BAY

Dear Prime Minister,

The Australian Government's recent decision to support the long-term future of the Tomago Aluminium Smelter recognised an important national reality: aluminium production is not simply a commercial enterprise. It is strategic industrial infrastructure that underpins manufacturing capability, sovereign supply chains, energy transition objectives and regional economic productivity.

Bell Bay Aluminium warrants the same strategic consideration.

Bell Bay is a critical component of Australia's end to end aluminium supply chain and one of the country's longest operating advanced manufacturing facilities. For more than 70 years it has converted renewable Tasmanian energy into Australian aluminium, supporting industrial capability, exports, skilled employment and downstream manufacturing.

The question facing governments today is not whether Bell Bay is important. The economic and industrial evidence clearly demonstrates that it is. The question is whether Australia is prepared to retain and strengthen sovereign industrial capability at a time when global competition for manufacturing investment continues to intensify.

Bell Bay Aluminium employs more than 550 people directly and supports more than 1,200 indirect jobs across Tasmania. In 2025, the operation paid almost \$76 million in salaries, invested \$40 million in capital works and spent approximately \$262 million with around 180 Tasmanian suppliers. Its broader economic contribution has been estimated at approximately \$986 million in output.

These figures demonstrate the scale of Bell Bay's contribution to the Tasmanian and Australian economies. They reflect industrial activity across engineering, fabrication, logistics, construction, professional services, local procurement and advanced manufacturing supply chains that would be difficult and costly to replace if lost.

The requirement is clear. Bell Bay requires a globally competitive long-term energy arrangement before current agreements expire on 31 December 2026. Without that certainty, investment decisions become increasingly difficult, industrial capability is placed at risk and Australia weakens a strategically important part of its manufacturing base.

A long term energy solution should not be viewed as assistance to an individual enterprise. It is a policy decision about maintaining nationally significant industrial capability, supporting Australia's manufacturing base, preserving strategic supply chains and protecting substantial economic activity that benefits both Tasmania and the nation.

Bell Bay Aluminium also sits at the centre of a broader industrial ecosystem. It supplies around 12,000 tonnes of molten aluminium annually to Kymera at Bell Bay, supporting the production of specialised powders, pastes and granules used across advanced manufacturing markets, including aerospace, defence, energy and infrastructure. This downstream value chain demonstrates exactly the type of value adding and sovereign capability that Australian industry policy seeks to encourage.

Australia's sovereign aluminium capability cannot be measured only by tonnes of bauxite, alumina or primary metal. Sovereignty lies in retaining the complete chain: smelting, alloying, atomisation, powders and granules, specialist

processing, engineering knowledge, quality systems, skilled workers and the ability to supply critical customers from within Australia.

Bell Bay Aluminium is also the only aluminium smelter in Australia with automotive supply chain accreditation, further underscoring its distinctive role in Australia's advanced manufacturing capability.

Once strategic industrial capability is lost, it is rarely restored without significant public and private investment. Skills disperse, supply chains fragment, specialised equipment is decommissioned and downstream manufacturers are forced to source inputs elsewhere. Re-establishing such capability takes years and often decades.

The Australian Government has already recognised aluminium as a strategic national industry through initiatives including the Green Aluminium Production Credit and, most recently, the support arrangements announced for Tomago. The policy principle established by those decisions should be applied consistently across the national aluminium sector.

The Australian Government should now apply the same policy discipline and strategic leadership demonstrated at Tomago by working with the Tasmanian Government, Hydro Tasmania and Bell Bay Aluminium to secure a globally competitive long term energy agreement before current arrangements expire on 31 December 2026.

The issue before government is not confined to one facility, one employer or one region. It concerns Australia's capacity to retain sovereign industrial capability, strengthen advanced manufacturing supply chains and provide the investment certainty necessary for long term economic growth.

Australia's industrial future will be determined not only by new projects, but by the decisions made about existing strategic assets. Bell Bay Aluminium is one of those assets.

A consistent national industry policy should recognise the strategic importance of Bell Bay, support the retention of sovereign manufacturing capability and help secure the long-term investment certainty required for industry, workers, suppliers and downstream manufacturers to continue contributing to Australia's economy.

A Future Made in Australia should include Bell Bay.

Yours sincerely

Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone
Susie Bower, Chief Executive Officer

Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council
Ray Mostogl, Chief Executive Officer

Northern Tasmania Development Corporation
Michael Bailey, Chief Executive Officer

Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union
Jacob Batt, State Secretary

Australian Workers Union – Tasmanian Branch
Ian Wakefield, Branch Secretary

Communications, Electrical, Plumbing Union – Tasmanian Branch
Chris Clark, State Secretary

Unions Tasmania
Jessica Munday, Secretary

City of Launceston
Matthew Garwood, Mayor

Dorset Council
Rhys Beattie, Mayor

George Town Council
Greg Kieser, Mayor

George Town Chamber of Commerce
Simone Lowe, President

Launceston Chamber of Commerce
Alina Bain, Chief Executive Officer

West Tamar Council
Christina Holmdahl, Mayor