



Adviser:

Department: State Growth

Ministerial CM Ref: MIN25/38858

DSG CM Ref: MR25/2588

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## Meeting Brief for the Premier

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### Meeting with the Minister for Industry and Innovation, Hon Tim Ayres - Tasmania's Major Industrial Businesses

8:00am – 8:45am Friday, 17 October 2025

Minister Ayres' electorate office – Level 3, 1A Lawson Square, Redfern NSW

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#### Guidance notes for the Premier

- You are meeting with the Minister for Industry and Innovation, Hon Tim Ayres to discuss Tasmania's Major Industrials (MIs), their escalating challenges, and the various requests for Federal assistance for the MI's which have been made at both a political and departmental level.
- **s 27**  
[Redacted text block]
- On 16 May 2025 you wrote to the Prime Minister requesting that the Commonwealth consider the following actions:
  - (i) A formal expansion of the Whyalla Working Group to include Liberty Bell Bay and other major industrial operations at risk, such as Nyrstar Hobart
  - (ii) Direct engagement between Minister Ayres and Minister Abetz, to explore the full suite of federal industry supports that may assist Tasmania's industrial base to transition and remain competitive.
  - (iii) Assurances that Bell Bay Aluminium will be eligible for the Federal Government's Green Aluminium Production Credit.
  - (iv) A detailed understanding of the Federal Government's commitment to the Boyer mill.
  - (v) Immediate recovery support in the event of any redundancies to support affected workers and local suppliers.

(vi) In the event of any major disruption to the States industrial base, consideration of regional recovery funding to drive investment and ensure the Tasmanian economy remains sustainable.

- Tasmania acknowledges the levels of engagement and collaboration from the Commonwealth at a Ministerial level, and between State Growth and the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR). However, Tasmania urgently requires commitments from the Commonwealth in relation to:

- (i) s 27 [REDACTED]

- s 27 [REDACTED]

- The State Growth led Major Industrial Taskforce, will continue to review the future sustainability of Tasmania's MIs and the Government's broader strategic approach, to enable further Government decision making in coming weeks and months.

- It is understood that DISR have either finalised or are finalising a 'national smelter plan' which will outline and prioritise Australia's total smelter assets around their commercial viability and importance towards sovereign capability. It would be beneficial if you could request through Minister Ayres a copy of this plan, to assist in the Taskforce's understanding and decision making.

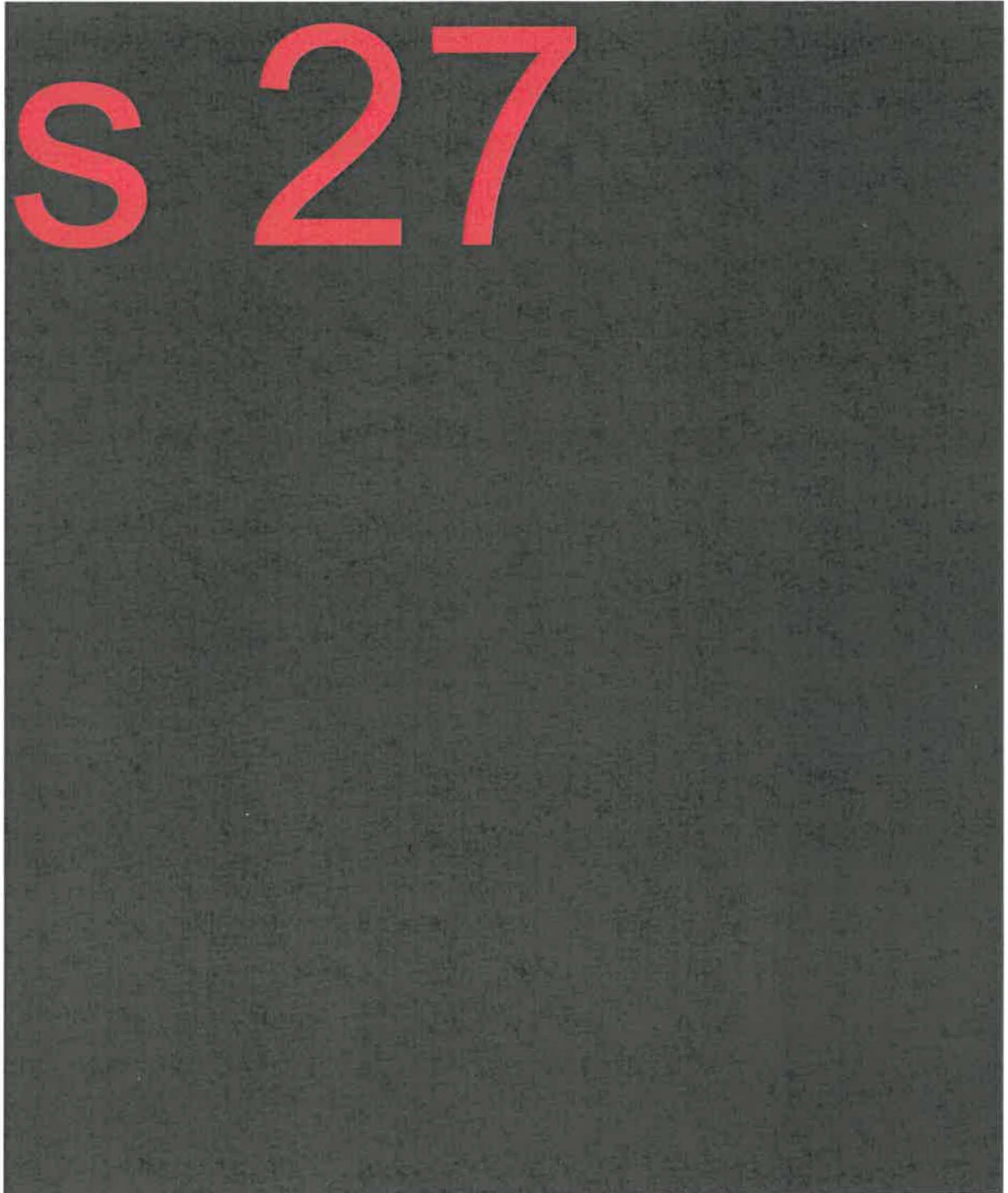
- DISR's Industrial Transition Branch has now sought to re-engage with State Growth. The branch team will provide a mechanism and avenue for State Growth to:

- (i) Coordinate a State/Federal response
- (ii) Formally outline and provide to DISR the projected economic and social impacts of one or more MI closures, and
- (iii) Present State prepared recovery plans and associated requests for Federal support, for consideration.

***MI Engagement with DISR and requests for assistance***

**1. BBA**

- In January 2025, the Australian Government announced the Green Aluminium Production Credit (Scheme), a \$2 billion initiative available from 2028-29, and potentially lasting for up to 10 years – formal details of the scheme are still to be released.
- State Growth has been engaging since February with the Scheme’s dedicated team within DISR to understand the details of the scheme’s design and particularly determine an available pathway for BBA to access it.



(iv)

§ 27 [Redacted]

- On 8 October 2025, Ministers Duigan and Ellis jointly wrote to Minister Ayres, again outlining the urgent and critical situation with BBA, and again making the case for assistance under the Green Aluminium Production Credit Scheme.

## 2. LBB

- State Growth has been directly engaging and collaborating with DISR - as a working group - on LBB and the GFG since March this year.
- DISR has been considering and holding active involvement with the GFG Group for some time through the Whyalla steelworks and its subsequent administration.
- DISR has completed a 'Rapid Assessment' around Australian manganese smelting, guided by the Future Made in Australia National Interest Framework.
- This assessment covers the criticality of manganese smelting in Australia, and the pressures facing LBB as Australia's only smelter. However, this is from a perspective of the smelter assets holding importance for Australia's sovereign capability in critical mineral processing, and not analysis of the financial position of LBB.
- Although a final version of this document has not been released to Tasmania, sighted drafts highlight that the Bell Bay manganese smelter does satisfy some of the assessment criteria under the Future Made in Australia framework and particularly its contribution towards Australia's sovereign capability in steelmaking and broader strategic relationships. The assessment in particular outlines that:

(i)

§ 27 [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- *DISR has not conveyed in dollar support terms, the value of the LBB asset to Australia, although there is a clear assessment and view of this value in terms of sovereign capability.*

- § 27 [Redacted]

- § 27 [Redacted]

§ 27  
[Redacted text]

- § 27  
[Redacted text]
  - (i) § 27  
[Redacted text]
  - (ii) § 27  
[Redacted text]
  - (iii) § 27  
[Redacted text]

- § 27  
[Redacted text]

- § 27  
[Redacted text]

### 3. Nyrstar

- In 2022 the Australian and Tasmanian Governments announced they were committing \$50 million and \$20 million respectively to support the replacement of the Cellhouse at Nyrstar Hobart facility.
- This project was key to securing the long-term (multi-decade) future of the Hobart site.
- Nyrstar undertook some initial preliminary works on the project however activities were suspended.
- State Growth has been formally engaging with DISR (separately and with a South Australia working group) since April 2025, including face to face sessions in Canberra.
- In 2025, a package of support for Nyrstar's Australian operations, at Port Pirie and Hobart, was announced by the Australian, South Australian and Tasmanian Governments (see background for full request).
- This \$135 million package is funded by \$57.5 million from the Australian Government, with \$55 million and \$22.5 million to come from the South Australian and Tasmanian governments, respectively.

- § 27  
[Redacted text]

■ [Redacted text]

- s 27 [Redacted]
- █ [Redacted]
- █ [Redacted]
- █ [Redacted]

#### **4. Boyer Mill**

- There has only been minor (in comparison) engagement by State Growth with DISR in relation to Boyer, and no direct requests for support.
- In April 2025, Federal Labor made a commitment of \$24 million to support Boyer Paper Mill's renewable energy transition.
- This commitment was an election commitment of Federal Labor and is not known to have been facilitated or requested by the Tasmanian Government.
- It is understood that funding under this commitment is expected to be received shortly by Boyer.

## Background:

### Economic contribution to Tasmania

Annual Economic Contribution

	Bell Bay Aluminium			Liberty Bell Bay			Nyrstar Hobart			Boyer Mill			Totals		
	Direct	Indirect	Total Impact	Direct	Indirect	Total Impact	Direct	Indirect	Total Impact	Direct	Indirect	Total Impact	Direct	Indirect	Total Impact
Employment	614	921	1,535	350	525	875	690	1,035	1,725	375	563	938	2,029	3,044	<b>5,073</b>
Salaries (\$M)	72	109	180	45	68	113	63	95	158	45	68	113	225	338	<b>563</b>
Direct expenditure (\$M)	268	128	213	163	179	298	253	339	566	146	150	260	876	796	<b>1,646</b>
Total Tasmanian economic contribution (\$M)	340	236	576	208	247	454	356	434	790	191	218	409	1,095	1,134	<b>2,229</b>
% of total Tasmanian export revenue	13			8			23			6			50		<b>90</b>

**Notes**

\*Energy costs have been estimated by DSS based on available data and included in Total Impact, and has not been fully verified by all businesses and direct impacts capture fewer benefits resulting from direct employment and supply chain expenditure



50% of Tasmania's export revenue



Community benefits – local programs, medical services, council rates



Significant Employer and supporter of supply chain businesses - regional importance



Large infrastructure users and maintainers – water, ports, rail



Direct wholesale and supply agreements with Hydro Tasmania and TasNetworks

### Known direct returns to the State (revenue for State)

Bell Bay Aluminium	
GBE Gross Revenue	(\$M p.a.)
<b>\$ 27</b>	<b>\$ 27</b>
Total GBE	
Payroll Tax	
Land Taxes	
George Town Council Rates	
<b>Total Local and State</b>	
Federal Govt Tax PAYG	
<b>Total</b>	

Liberty Bell Bay 2024	
GBE Gross Revenue	(\$M p.a.)
<b>\$ 27</b>	<b>\$ 27</b>
Total GBE	
Payroll Tax	
Stamp Duty	
Georgetown Council Rates	
<b>Total Local and State</b>	
<b>Total</b>	

Boyer Paper Mill	
GBE Gross Revenue	(\$M p.a.)
<b>\$ 27</b>	<b>\$ 27</b>
<b>Total</b>	

**Examples of key business dependencies with MIs**

Dependencies	
<b>BBA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kymera in Bell Bay - buys 10% of BBA total product in a hot state to produce Aluminium powders and pastes and would likely close if BBA closes. 50 direct jobs.</li> <li>• Cement Australia – paid by BBA to accept waste which is used within kilns.</li> <li>• Red mud - a legacy by-product from when the site used to refine its own Alumina - estimated 1M tonnes of red mud - finding strong rehabilitative uses as an alternative to lime in West Coast mines.</li> </ul>
<b>Nyrstar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• s 27 [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> </ul>
<b>Boyer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Forests – contract to supply radiata pine. Estimated 90 direct workers.</li> </ul>
<b>LBB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manganese is a key input into Australian steelmaking capability and Australia's only manganese alloy asset.</li> </ul>

**Current Challenges and opportunities**

Challenges and opportunities	
<b>BBA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• s 27 [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> </ul>
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<b>Boyer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• s 27 [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> <li>• [Redacted]</li> </ul>

