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 Minister for Jobs and Skills

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Mr Michael Ferguson MP
 Member for Bass
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Dear Michael

Thank you for your constituent question asked on 2 December 2025 in Parliament seeking an update on the Liberty Bell Bay (LBB) manganese smelter.

The Government is acutely aware of the ongoing challenges facing LBB and remains committed to supporting the Northern Tasmanian community during this period of uncertainty. LBB makes a significant contribution to the State as a long-term major export manufacturing business, employer and supporter of local business and key industries such as transport, advanced manufacturing, resources and energy.

The Government provided a loan to Liberty Bell Bay in August 2025, to purchase ore required to restart production and in doing so assist Tasmanian workers, their families and the LBB supply chain by recommencing production.

LBB has subsequently breached multiple conditions in relation to this loan from the Tasmanian Government. The loan expired on 18 January 2026, at which time LBB failed to repay the loan. The Government has now taken action by appointing receivers and managers over the ore.

This move is designed to protect the secured asset (the ore), and Tasmania's interests, while continuing to work with LBB and LBB's owners, GFG Group and any other interested parties to determine a path forward and explore a return to full production.

The Government has been trying to work proactively with LBB to facilitate a return to full production, with a focus on supporting workers and the Northern Tasmania economy.

The Government has created the Bell Bay Response Team to work with the local community to identify actions and opportunities to support businesses and the community now and into the future. The Response Team, in partnership with Government is committed to supporting the community and industrial, manufacturing and supply chain capacity in Northern Tasmania.

While the future of LBB is, ultimately, a matter that is commercial to them, the Government has and continues to be prepared to engage with LBB or any party interested in operating the asset. There has been initial engagement with Steel International Trading Company (SITC), and we will continue to engage with them in undertaking a process of due diligence, along with exploring any other opportunities to protect the future of LBB.

We continue to engage with the Australian Government to ensure national support remains aligned with the strategic national importance of the Bell Bay industrial zone.

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We believe in a positive long-term outcome for the community and broader Northern economic region and are focused on building local jobs, community confidence and the long-term strength of Northern Tasmania's industrial base.

Thank you for raising these matters in Parliament, I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Business, Industry and Resources

10/2/2026

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