

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Skills and Jobs

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Mr Roger Jaensch MP
Member for Braddon
Email: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Roger

In Parliament on 11 November 2025, you asked the following question of myself as Minister for Business, Industry and Resources:

The Prime Minister and the President of the United States recently signed an important agreement to secure supply of critical minerals and rare earths, backed by over \$1 billion in new investments and supply chains across both nations. Given Tasmania's growing role in the production and processing of critical minerals, how will this agreement and investment make a difference on the ground for our mining industry and the communities of the West Coast, in our electorate?

Tasmania is exceptionally well placed to benefit from the landmark agreement between the Prime Minister and the President of the United States to secure critical minerals and rare earths supply chains. This is a billion-dollar opportunity for Australia and Tasmania has a real stake in it.

As the Premier recently made clear, Tasmania is already involved in critical minerals and rare earths production and exploration, and we are ready to share in the benefits of this historic partnership with the US. Strengthening these international supply chains directly supports Australia's sovereign capability, including advanced manufacturing and defence, and Tasmania has an increasingly important role to play in that national effort.

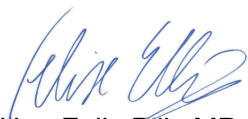
On the ground, this means new opportunities for our miners, processors and the regional communities, especially on the West Coast, whose economic prosperity is tied to a strong and modern resources sector.

We recognised early that Tasmania had the right geology, the right expertise and the right industrial footprint to be part of global critical minerals supply chains. That's why our Government has been proactively investing in the sector, including through our Critical Minerals Strategy.

More recently, we signed a new Federal Funding Agreement to deliver a feasibility study into a Common User Processing Facility for critical minerals. This study, focused on the North West and using tin and tungsten as working examples, is about unlocking new value added industries and downstream processing right here in Tasmania. A facility like this could help new mines open, keep more value locally and support new jobs in mining, mineral processing, and advanced manufacturing.

Tasmania is ready, and this agreement helps ensure our miners, processors and regional communities share in the upside of a global demand shift towards critical minerals and rare earths that plays directly to our strengths.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Felix Ellis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Business, Industry and Resources

2/12/2025