Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Skills and Jobs
Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy

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Tasmanian Government

Ms Tabatha Badger MP
Chair
House of Assembly Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions
Email: caretaker@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Chair

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 August 2026 to myself and the Treasurer regarding decisions made by the Government concerning Liberty Bell Bay Pty Ltd (LBB) during the 2025 caretaker period. I am also responding on behalf of the Tasmanian Government as Minister for Business, Industry and Resources.

On 28 July 2025, the Tasmanian Development and Resources (TDR) Board resolved to recommend that an urgent loan of up to $20 million be provided to LBB under section 35 of the *Tasmanian Development Act 1983* (the Act) for the purchase of essential ore required to support ongoing production.

On 30 July 2025, the then Minister for Business, Industry and Resources, the Hon Eric Abetz MP, considered the advice from TDR in accordance with section 35 of the Act, and then sought the Treasurer's approval to support the making of the loan to LBB. The then Treasurer, the Hon Guy Barnett MP, approved the use of TDR funds pursuant to section 37A of the Act on 1 August 2025.

As the decision was required to be made during the caretaker period, the Government managed the matter in accordance with the caretaker conventions. Following agreement with the Premier and consideration by Cabinet, the relevant Opposition spokesperson was contacted to outline the Government's intention to make a loan offer to LBB. The Opposition was also offered a factual briefing from senior departmental representatives. This briefing was held on 1 August 2025 and was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the caretaker conventions.

I am advised that, subsequent to the briefing and the Treasurer's approval under the Act, the loan offer and associated documentation were provided to LBB on 8 August 2025, following the conclusion of the caretaker period. The loan documentation was subsequently executed on 18 August 2025 and is publicly available at https://www.building.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/624773/RTI-25-26-27.PDF.

I am also advised that the first drawdown of the loan, which enabled the purchase of manganese ore, occurred on 19 August 2025.

Government understands that EY has provided a response to media correcting the record in that the purchase of ore did not occur on 30 June 2025 and instead occurred on 18 August 2025 as outlined in section 3.2 of the Administrators report.

I trust this information is of assistance to the Committee.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Minister for Business, Industry and Resources

Copy to: Hon Eric Abetz MP, Treasurer
Hon Guy Barnett MP, Deputy Premier

31/8/2026