TASMANIA

PREMIER OF TASMANIA

17 November 2026

Mr Rob Fairs MP
Liberal Member for Bass
Email: Rob.Fairs@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Fairs

On October 29th you asked the Premier the following question:

My question is from Cheryl in George Town. Cheryl's a working mother and has hopes that her children will be able to grow up and get jobs in the George Town area to keep her family together. Following the unfortunate closure of Liberty Bell Bay, she is nervous about the future for her town. Noting the recent release of the Northern Tasmania Economic Summit summary report, can the Premier please outline what the future of George Town might look like for Cheryl and her children?

Response:

I thank Cheryl for her question and acknowledge her commitment to George Town and the future of her children.

Like many families in the community, Cheryl is understandably concerned about what the future holds following the closure of Liberty Bell Bay. The Government recognises those concerns and is working to ensure George Town remains one of Tasmania's strongest regional centres for jobs, industry and investment.

George Town's future is closely tied to the significant opportunities emerging at Bell Bay. The region is already home to nationally significant industrial assets, deep-water port infrastructure and a skilled workforce, making it one of the most important economic precincts in Tasmania.

That is why the Government is progressing work on Special Economic Precincts and continuing to support the growth of major industrial projects in the Bell Bay region.

These initiatives are aimed at attracting new investment, expanding advanced manufacturing and clean energy industries, and creating the long-term jobs that communities like George Town need.

The recently released Northern Tasmania Economic Summit report highlighted the enormous potential of Northern Tasmania's industrial, energy, freight and export sectors. Bell Bay sits at the centre of many of those opportunities and remains a key focus for future economic development.

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Importantly, the Government is also committed to supporting existing major employers in the region. The renewed Bell Bay Aluminium enterprise agreement provides certainty for the workforce and the operation, while broader efforts continue to secure new investment and diversify the local economy.

For Cheryl and her children, the message is clear: our goal is not only to support today's jobs, but to create the industries and opportunities that will allow young people to live, work and raise their own families in George Town for generations to come.

Through continued investment, industry attraction and precinct development, we are confident George Town has a strong future ahead and will remain a vital part of Tasmania's economic story.

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier