

Joint Media Statement

Bell Bay Aluminium Secures Direct Multi Purpose International Shipping Service with Swire Shipping from Bell Bay

Bell Bay Aluminium has today announced an agreement with Swire Shipping for the provision of a direct international ocean freight service between Asian ports and Bell Bay Port.

Swire Shipping will provide Bell Bay Aluminium with multi purpose vessels capable of both a breakbulk and containerised ocean freight shipping service on a monthly basis from Bell Bay Port to various locations in Asia including Singapore.

Bell Bay Aluminium General Manager, Ray Mostogl, said 'Since the withdrawal of the international container service in May 2011, Bell Bay Aluminium's containers have been routed via Melbourne before being shipped internationally. The double-handling and additional costs have impacted on Bell Bay Aluminium's viability.'

Mr Mostogl said that in October, 2012 Bell Bay Aluminium tendered for both breakbulk and container shipping services from Bell Bay Port. The offer presented by Swire Shipping included the restoration of a direct multi purpose shipping service between Bell Bay Port and Asian ports.

'Over the last 12 months it has become clear to us that an immediate solution needed to be put in place to address our current freight transport situation whilst, allowing time for a longer-term solution for all Tasmanian exporters to be developed.'

'In recent years the loss of an international containerised shipping service has resulted in significant increases in costs. Today's announcement reverses much of this increase,' Mr Mostogl said.

The first vessel in the monthly service will call into Bell Bay Port late March 2013. Bell Bay will be included as an additional port on Swire Shipping's existing Asia Pacific Australasia service. In addition, during 2013 the service will be retonnaged with brand new state of the art S Class vessels.

Mr Mostogl said that the new service will account for almost half of Bell Bay Aluminium's containers with the remaining containers to be shipped via Melbourne.

There will be a small amount of container capacity available to other Tasmanian exporters as well as breakbulk and container capacity for Tasmanian importers.

'We see the commencement of our service with Swire Shipping as an important stepping stone to a long term sustainable service, building on the work of Bob Gozzi, Chair, Tasmanian Exporters Group who has and continues to actively campaign on behalf of the broader Tasmanian export community,' said Mr Mostogl

General Manager, Swire Shipping Australia, Steve Clark said 'With over 500 individual port calls in Australia, Swire Shipping sees Tasmania as an excellent opportunity to grow our business and is committed to working with Bell Bay Aluminium and Tasmanian exporters and importers to provide a sustainable service.'

'We will be doing our best, with the support of customers, service providers and government to make this a long term service to further broaden our coverage in Tasmania.'

An increase in vessel frequency would allow Bell Bay Aluminium to ship more containers internationally via Bell Bay Port, rather than through Melbourne.

Background information:

Bell Bay smelter is located on the Tamar River near George Town in Northern Tasmania. Bell Bay Aluminium directly and indirectly employs more than a thousand Tasmanians and contributes \$690M per annum to Tasmania's Gross State Product. Annual production in 2012: 185,000 tonnes

Bell Bay was the first aluminium smelter built in the Southern Hemisphere, commencing production in 1955 as a joint venture between the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments.

About Swire Shipping:

Swire Shipping is the liner shipping division of the China Navigation Company, the wholly owned deep-sea shipping arm of the Swire Group. The company operates multiple liner trades, servicing its core trading area of New Zealand, Australia, Asia and the South Pacific and extending to Europe and North America. Swire Shipping's versatile fleet of multipurpose ships is capable of carrying a wide range of general, unitised cargoes [including heavy and bulky project lifts], break-bulk parcels [steel, forest products] bulk parcels, as well as containerized cargoes [general and refrigerated].

Ends

For further information please contact:

Lou Clark, Community Relations Specialist, Bell Bay Aluminium on +61 (0) 419 326 023 or +61 3 6382 5129

Steve Clark, General Manager, Swire Shipping, Australia on +61 (0) 408 641 772 or +61 2 9272 9396 or visit www.swireshipping.com