

2024-2026

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## Summary Environment & Social Management Plan

### Bell Bay Aluminium

The purpose of this summary environment and social management plan is to provide an overview of Bell Bay Aluminium's approach to environment (air, water, waste and land) and social risk management. This document consolidates information from topic specific risk assessments, various management plans, standards and procedures utilised by Bell Bay Aluminium. The summary environment and social management plan is not a controlled document.



Bell Bay Aluminium, Tasmania

We work and meet here at Bell Bay in Kinimathatakinta/George Town.

We acknowledge Palawa/Tasmanian Aboriginals as the original owners of Lutrawita/Tasmania and recognise their continuing connection to land, sea, waterways, sky and culture.

We pay respects to Elders past and present.

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## Bell Bay Aluminium's approach to sustainability

Bell Bay Aluminium aligns with the Rio Tinto approach to sustainability<sup>1</sup>, with achieving impeccable environment, social and governance (ESG) credentials as one of our core objectives. We strive to align our business priorities with society's expectations and ensure sustainability considerations are at the core of every decision we make.

In strong alignment with The Way We Work<sup>2</sup>, and reflected in our Health Safety Environment and Communities Policy<sup>3</sup>, we make the safety and wellbeing of our employees, contractors and communities our number one priority, where everyone goes home safe and healthy every day. Equally critical, is maintaining stakeholder confidence through accountable and effective management of our risks and our impacts. Safely looking after the environment is an essential part of our care for future generations.

## Bell Bay Aluminium site context

The Bell Bay Aluminium smelter is located near George Town, Tasmania, Australia, and commenced operations in 1955. The smelter has approximately 530 employees and contractors and produced 186kt (hot metal product) in 2023, including aluminium slab, molten metal, small form ingots, T-bar and remelt ingots.

The Bell Bay Aluminium smelter was the first operating aluminium smelter in the southern hemisphere, and operates three pot lines, a casthouse, carbon plant as well as workshops and wharf facility. Bell Bay customers include hot metal sales within Tasmania (Australia) and aluminium (Cold Metal) to Australia, the USA and Asia (including Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Korea and Taiwan).

With landholdings in the vicinity of 1800 hectares, Bell Bay Aluminium is one of the more significant private landholders in the Tamar Valley. Of this land area, the land associated with aluminium production makes up less than 10 per cent, with the remainder consisting predominately of modified forest land.



Bell Bay Aluminium, Tasmania

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.riotinto.com/en/sustainability/our-approach>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.riotinto.com/en/sustainability/policies>

<sup>3</sup> <https://bellbayaluminium.com.au/sustainability>



## Emissions to air

### Bell Bay Aluminium air context

Any emissions to air that are released from Bell Bay Aluminium and neighbouring industrial sites within the Bell Bay Manufacturing Zone enter the Tamar Valley Air Shed (TVAS).

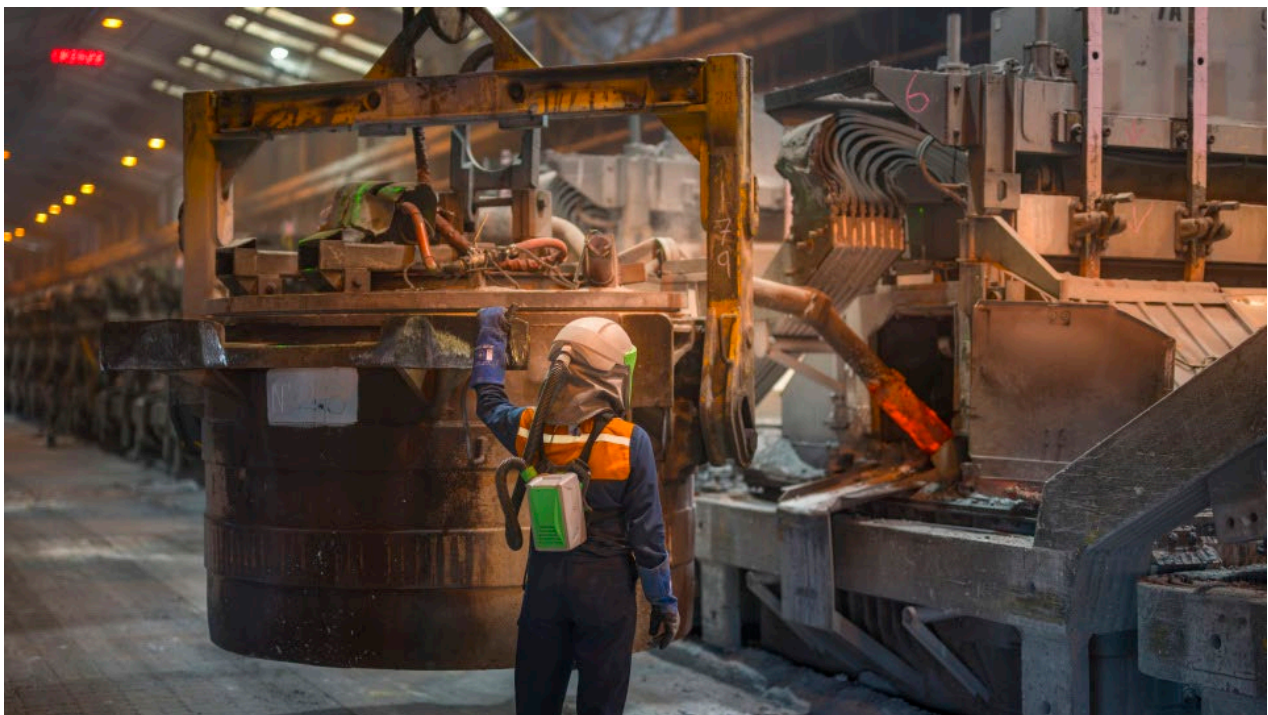
The Tamar Valley extends approximately 60 kilometres from the coast at Low Head, inland in a south-east direction, with the city of Launceston located near the head of the Tamar River estuary.

The TVAS is enclosed by the terrain that centres on the Tamar Valley up to 300m above sea level. Under many conditions, surface winds in the TVAS are guided by the valley walls (aligned on a south-east / north-west axis). Winds are often cyclic, with an afternoon north-west sea breeze moving emissions to the south-east, followed by evening south-east drainage airflows moving emissions towards the valley mouth and out into Bass Strait.

The following wind features are typical in Bell Bay:

- Down-valley winds predominate in autumn.
- Up-valley winds predominate in spring and in summer.
- Light winds are mainly oriented down valley for all seasons.
- Strong (>8m/s) winds are seen mainly from the west, north-west and are present in all seasons.

Bell Bay Aluminium has measures in place to manage, monitor and mitigate its emissions from its operations to achieve compliance with its authorised licence limits. Bell Bay Aluminium regularly monitors dust and particulates, fluoride and other chemical compounds across various operational areas according to licence requirements. The Bell Bay Aluminium environment protection notice is publicly available on the Tasmanian Government regulator's website<sup>4</sup>.



Potline at Bell Bay Aluminium

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<sup>4</sup> <https://epa.tas.gov.au/business-industry/site-information>

## **Air objectives**

Bell Bay Aluminium aims to:

- Ensure operational practices, engineering controls and maintenance strategies are effective in controlling emissions.

## **Controlling emissions to air**

Bell Bay Aluminium has in place a range of controls to ensure potential emissions are minimised, managed, and monitored accordingly.

Some of the critical controls include:

- Emission control systems – on all major point sources to remove fume and particulates. These include continuous monitors to control emissions and scrubbing systems.
- Dust collectors - on all minor stacks. These include continuous online particulate monitors to ensure they operate within design limits and preventative maintenance strategies.
- Continuous monitoring with real-time feedback to operators is installed in the potline roof so operators can see the impact of their work practices and adjust accordingly.
- Air emission monitoring program for fluoride, sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, particulates, volatile organic compounds, and poly aromatic hydrocarbons.
- Respiratory protection program (PPE and routine fit testing confirmation) for workforce that may be exposed to particulates prior to emission control systems.

## **Water use and discharges to water**

### **Bell Bay Aluminium site water context**

Bell Bay Aluminium receives water (potable and raw) via municipal supply from TasWater. Further details related to the water catchment including surface water allocations, annual usage and estimated average annual catchment rainfall runoff are publicly available from Rio Tinto<sup>5</sup>.

Water is distributed through the site via a series of above and below ground pipes. The site utilises water to chill hot metal, cool compressors, cool air in the CBF3 fume tower, and for ablutions, drinking water, safety showers and fire suppression.

Water is pumped from on-site showers and toilets via various sewage pumping stations and then through a private sewer line to the TasWater operated George Town wastewater treatment plant.

Under normal operating conditions, stormwater discharges from the smelter are directed via the site drainage systems into the onsite wetlands or settling ponds for contaminant removal before discharge to the Tamar Estuary.

Water from the on-site landfill drainage network and encapsulation pumping stations is automatically sent to the decant pond before being dosed with flocculant at the leachate treatment facility.

Within Bell Bay Aluminium's landholdings, two water dams are present. Lauriston Dam contains ~200ML and Howell Dam holds ~70ML. Lauriston Dam presently supplies the George Town Golf Club for irrigation.

Bell Bay Aluminium has measures in place to manage, monitor and mitigate its discharges to water from its operations to achieve compliance with its authorised licence limits and protect water quality within the Tamar Estuary. The Bell Bay Aluminium environment protection notice is publicly available on the Tasmanian Government regulator's website<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.riotintowaterdashboard.com/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://epa.tas.gov.au/business-industry/site-information>

## Water objectives

Bell Bay Aluminium aims to:

- Manage water quality to ensure discharge does not unacceptably impact ecosystems in the Tamar Estuary.

## Controlling water use and discharges to water

Bell Bay Aluminium has in place a range of controls to ensure water is used responsibly and potential discharges to water are minimised, managed, and monitored accordingly.

Some of the critical controls include:

- Constructed wetlands to reduce particulate loading through filtration and sedimentation processes.
- Settling ponds to settle out sediments prior to discharge into the Tamar Estuary.
- An oil trap on the south-west corner of the settling pond to reduce oil discharge to the Tamar Estuary.
- A leachate treatment plant to remove soluble fluoride and lower the pH levels.
- Lined decant ponds to allow evaporative treatment of untreated water.
- A water monitoring program for groundwater and surface water quality involving extensive water testing.
- Regular contaminant removal from roadways using contracting partner sweepers to reduce loading in drains.



Bell Bay Aluminium, water sampling

## Waste management

### Bell Bay Aluminium waste context

There are different forms of waste generated during the smelting process at Bell Bay Aluminium. Wastes are classified as either hazardous (e.g. dross, spent cell liner, rodding room dusts, used oil, medical waste, contaminated scrubber bags) or non-hazardous (e.g. paper, food scraps, plastic bottles, timber). Detailed characterisation of waste streams is undertaken to ensure accurate knowledge to determine the appropriate management practices.

Whilst there is an on-site landfill area (that has been in operation since 1978 and previously received waste generated on the site), all general and domestic waste is disposed offsite at a licensed landfill facility. The on-site landfill is used to temporarily store timber and hard fill waste streams.

Engineered waste storage facilities are available onsite to ensure appropriate storage of wastes. These are used as either short term storage (where disposal / valorisation pathways are present) or as longer-term storage (where sustainable end points are not yet available).

Bell Bay Aluminium (and Rio Tinto) continually investigate more sustainable pathways for all waste streams. This includes working on research and development projects for waste valorisation.

### Waste objectives

Bell Bay Aluminium aims to:

- Minimise the generation of all waste streams.
- Ensure appropriate handling, treatment, disposal and repurposing of waste generated by Bell Bay Aluminium.
- Avoid the long-term storage of hazardous substances.

### Waste controls

Bell Bay Aluminium has in place a range of controls to ensure potential emissions are minimised, managed, and monitored accordingly.

Some of the critical controls include:

- Waste valorisation pathways for major waste streams, such as spent cell lining (SCL) and dross.
- Waste segregation processes to minimise cross contamination.
- Audits of off-site waste treatment / disposal sites/companies.
- Landfill drainage systems designed to manage leachate.

## Land management

### Bell Bay Aluminium land context

The eastern boundary of Bell Bay Aluminium (BBA) owned land adjoins the State Forest area in the Tippogoree Hills, while the Tamar River estuary forms the western boundary. George Town lies to the north-west of the smelter, and the nearest residences in the township are approximately 3kms from the smelter.

In total, Bell Bay owns eight separate land titles and leases a ninth from the Crown which is associated with the wharf. With landholdings in the vicinity of 1800 ha, Bell Bay Aluminium is one of the more significant private landholders in the Tamar Valley. Of this land area, the land associated with aluminium production makes up less than 10 per cent, with the remainder consisting of modified forest land.

Bell Bay Aluminium land is used for a diverse range of activities including, George Town Golf Club, Black Powder & Pistol Club, Launceston Junior Motor Cross Club, George Town Golf Club, and the George Town Mountain Bike Trail Network.



Several studies have been undertaken on Bell Bay land to characterise the natural features of the area specific to flora and fauna.

- Flora - The overstorey is made up of dry sclerophyll forest (including Black Peppermint, Swamp Gum and White Gum). The understorey is predominantly grass or bracken with dense high scrub on less exposed sites. Many vegetation communities have been identified and include protected vegetation communities and threatened flora species.
- Fauna - There is an abundance of wildlife throughout the Bell Bay Aluminium landholdings and adjoining State Forest, due to the undisturbed nature of the natural bushland. A total of 80 terrestrial fauna species have been previously detected on Bell Bay Aluminium land, with 4 of these Federally or State listed as threatened or significant species.
- Alien / Invasive Species – declared species (weeds) and invasive animals (pests) are known to be within the area surrounding the Bell Bay Aluminium landholdings.

Both Aboriginal and European heritage sites are found within the Bell Bay Aluminium landholdings. We are committed to working closely with the community to ensure we better understand their priorities and concerns, minimise impacts and responsibly manage cultural heritage within Bell Bay Aluminium land holdings.

### Land objectives

Bell Bay Aluminium aims to:

- Manage Bell Bay Aluminium landholdings in a manner which protects environmental values, significant features and habitats and areas of cultural significance.
- Ensure operational practices, engineering controls and maintenance strategies are effective in minimising contamination.

### Land management

Bell Bay Aluminium has in place a range of controls to ensure potential impacts are minimised, managed, and monitored accordingly.

Some of the critical controls include:

- GIS mapping of all landholdings including features and habitats
- Ground disturbance permitting system (includes heritage and protection of threatened species controls)
- Defined management responses for identified alien species (weed & pest control)
- Yearly planting program includes planting of threatened species
- Fire control strategy
- Partnering on cultural awareness training with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania.



Bell Bay Aluminium's tree planting initiative



## Environmental initiatives and improvement plans

Environmental initiatives and improvement plans are captured in the Bell Bay Aluminium Annual Environmental Report publicly available on the Bell Bay Aluminium website<sup>7</sup>.

In addition to site initiatives and improvement plans, this report also provides annual updates on incident reviews and environmental monitoring program data.

## Environment disclosures

Bell Bay Aluminium provides data for disclosures as part of the following:

Program	Link
Rio Tinto Annual Report	<a href="https://www.riotinto.com/en/invest/reports">https://www.riotinto.com/en/invest/reports</a>
Rio Tinto water risk	<a href="https://www.riotinto.com/en/sustainability/environment/water">https://www.riotinto.com/en/sustainability/environment/water</a>
Rio Tinto surface water	<a href="https://www.riotintowaterdashboard.com">https://www.riotintowaterdashboard.com</a>
Australian Government National Pollutant Inventory (NPI)	<a href="https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/npi">https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/npi</a> NPI Home » NPI data » Search NPI data » Browse Search Bell Bay Aluminium
Clean Energy Regulator Emissions and Energy Reporting System (scope 1 & 2 greenhouse gas and energy)	<a href="https://cer.gov.au/">https://cer.gov.au/</a> CER Home » Markets » Reports and Data » safeguard facility reported emissions data Search: Bell Bay Aluminium
Bell Bay Aluminium Annual Environmental Report	<a href="https://bellbayaluminium.com.au/environment">https://bellbayaluminium.com.au/environment</a>
Bell Bay Aluminium Annual Sustainable Development Report	<a href="https://bellbayaluminium.com.au/sustainable-development">https://bellbayaluminium.com.au/sustainable-development</a>

Bell Bay Aluminium is committed to sharing of data to aid in benchmarking and industry learning. Bell Bay Aluminium provides data for this purpose as part of the following programs:

Program	Contents	Link
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) annual surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy and water (annual)</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.abs.gov.au/">https://www.abs.gov.au/</a>
International Aluminium Institute (IAI) periodic reports and/or surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety sharing information (quarterly)</li> <li>Sustainable development indicators (annual)</li> <li>Safety performance benchmarking (annual)</li> <li>Refining energy (annual)</li> <li>Life cycle inventory (LCI) data and environmental metrics (5 yearly)</li> </ul>	<a href="https://international-aluminium.org/">https://international-aluminium.org/</a>  <a href="https://international-aluminium.org/resource/life-cycle-inventory-lci-data-and-environmental-metrics/">https://international-aluminium.org/resource/life-cycle-inventory-lci-data-and-environmental-metrics/</a>
Australian Aluminium Council (AAC) annual surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainability data (annual)</li> </ul>	<a href="https://aluminium.org.au/">https://aluminium.org.au/</a>

<sup>7</sup> <https://bellbayaluminium.com.au/environment>

## Communities and Social Performance (CSP)

### Bell Bay Aluminium communities context

Bell Bay Aluminium plays a significant role in the regional economy of George Town and northern Tasmania. We know that the strength of our relationships with the communities where we operate, and broader society, is fundamental to our business. Without support from host communities, Bell Bay Aluminium cannot operate successfully.

George Town, West Tamar, and Launceston local government areas (LGAs) are closely linked, each playing a vital role in shaping the region's overall social profile. The three LGAs, while distinct in their demographic and socio-economic profiles, are interconnected and interdependent. At the last Census in 2021, the population of these LGAs was: George Town (7,033), West Tamar (25,145) and Launceston (70,055).

Launceston, as the larger urban centre, influences the economic and cultural landscape of the smaller LGAs. George Town and West Tamar LGAs, with their unique industrial, agricultural, viticultural and tourism bases, contribute to the broader Northern Tasmanian economy and community life. The variation in educational attainment and employment sectors across the LGAs highlights their diverse contributions within the broader Northern Tasmanian context.

Communities within the Tamar Valley region are geographically closest to the smelter, and are economically, socially, or environmentally impacted – potentially positively and negatively - by Bell Bay Aluminium operations and activities. There are many important groups and stakeholders we seek to develop relationships with. Although not exhaustive, they include:

- Local residents, businesses and community organisations in George Town and the broader region.
- George Town, West Tamar and Launceston LGAs.
- Local and Tasmanian Aboriginal community representatives and organisations (e.g. Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC), Reconciliation Tasmania).
- Regional development groups – Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone (BBAMZ), George Town and Launceston Chambers of Commerce, Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, George Town Future Impact Group (GTFIG), Northern Tasmania Development (NTDC).
- Federal, State and local members of parliament.
- State Government – including Tasmanian Premier and cabinet ministers, Department of State Growth and Environment Protection Authority Tasmania (EPA), Department of Natural Resources and Environment.
- Government business enterprises E.g. Hydro Tasmania and TasNetworks and State-owned companies e.g. TasPorts.
- Bell Bay Aluminium employees.

Bell Bay Aluminium regularly engage with stakeholders and undertake socio-economic impact assessments to understand the benefits and impacts of our activities. The latest assessment was completed in 2023, and Bell Bay Aluminium also undertook community perception monitoring, via the Rio Tinto Local Voices program. Both provided valuable insights around community resilience and wellbeing, impacts of, and attitudes towards, the smelter operations, and opportunities for improvement. The Local Voices survey results are available on the Voconiq website<sup>8</sup>.

### Community and Social Performance objectives

Bell Bay Aluminium aims to build respectful, enduring relationships to enable delivery of the business plan and create long term shared benefits with the communities where we operate. To achieve this, Bell Bay Aluminium's key objectives are to:

- Effectively manage our social risks and impacts.
- Engage with local communities and workforce to develop and maintain robust relationships.
- Make a positive contribution to our local communities.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://voconiqlocalvoices.com/en/bell-bay-aluminium/results/>

## Working with communities

Bell Bay Aluminium has various processes in place for managing impacts and maximising benefits to local communities as well as achieving the objectives outlined above. The Rio Tinto Communities and Social Performance Standard<sup>9</sup> is the overarching control and requires detailed stakeholder mapping, regular community engagement and social and human rights impact and risk assessments.

More information is available in the table below and annual Sustainable Development Reports.



George Town, Tasmania



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<sup>9</sup> Rio Tinto communities and social performance standard is available at <https://www.riotinto.com/en/sustainability/policies>

Objective	Key activities	Future priorities
Effectively manage social risks and impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socio-economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) completed in 2023</li> <li>• Historic and Aboriginal heritage baseline assessments completed in 2023</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete natural heritage baseline assessment</li> <li>• Undertake cultural heritage assessment of Bell Bay Aluminium southern land holdings in the vicinity of East Arm</li> <li>• Updated audit and verification of registered Aboriginal sites within Bell Bay Aluminium land holdings</li> <li>• Engage with community and other stakeholders to meet GISTM requirements for the inactive red mud dam and to inform future planning for Lauriston and Howell reservoirs</li> </ul>
Engage with local communities and workforce to develop and maintain robust relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular formal and informal engagement with community and other stakeholders</li> <li>• Local Voices, community perception monitoring, undertaken in 2023</li> <li>• Member of the George Town Future Impact Group</li> <li>• Community feedback and complaints mechanism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement actions based on community feedback provided through the SEIA and Local Voices</li> <li>• Complete Local Voices pulse surveys annually</li> <li>• Undertake Aboriginal community consultation to better understand the Aboriginal cultural landscape values (tangible and intangible) that may be present within the Bell Bay Aluminium owned lands and to discuss to discuss potential future management strategies for these Aboriginal heritage values</li> </ul>
Make a positive contribution to our local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various partnerships including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Founding member of the Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone Ltd (BBAMZ), an industry based economic development group</li> <li>◦ George Town Council and the Australian Government including providing land to develop the George Town Mountain Bike Trails</li> <li>◦ 2022 Memorandum of Understanding with the Tasmanian Government to work together to ensure a strong and sustainable future economy for the region</li> <li>◦ Beacon Foundation to help students become aware of opportunities within the advanced manufacturing sector</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Annual community grants program, helping community groups and organisations across Tasmania, in the areas of Education, Environment, Inclusion &amp; Diversity, Culture &amp; Heritage, Health &amp; Wellbeing, and Economic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to identify and develop strategic partnerships based on identified community needs and priorities including regional economic development and diversity</li> </ul>








## Complaints and feedback mechanism

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# Community Feedback and Complaints

We value community feedback as it helps us to improve how we operate and work, and more closely integrate our programs with community expectations. We encourage the community to provide feedback or report any concerns or complaints that arise as a direct result of our operations. We are willing to learn from our mistakes by listening to understand and through working together, we will deliver better long-term outcomes for everyone.

### How you can provide feedback or make a complaint.

-  **Call** 0419 326 023 to speak to our Principal Advisor, Communities & Communication Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
-  **Send** a message via our website Community Feedback Form at <https://bellbayaluminium.com.au/community-feedback>
-  **Email** [BBACommunityFeedback@riotinto.com](mailto:BBACommunityFeedback@riotinto.com)
-  **Write** to us: PO Box 290, George Town, TAS 7253
-  To make a complaint or notify the EPA about an environmental issue, **Call** the Incident Response Hotline on 1800 005 171, or **Email:** [incidentresponse@epa.tas.gov.au](mailto:incidentresponse@epa.tas.gov.au)

### What happens after you have made a complaint?

Your feedback or complaint can be made anonymously, please let us know if you wish to remain anonymous.

Every complaint will be carefully considered, and a written response will be provided. We encourage open communication and collaboration to work towards a satisfactory resolution for all involved.


Your complaint, contact details and resolution will be recorded in accordance with our privacy and complaints management policies

### What happens if your issue isn't resolved?


If a resolution cannot be reached, your complaint will be escalated to management who will reassess the issue and undertake an internal investigation to confirm the next steps. An independent tribunal may be considered for complaints of a serious or complex nature.

#### myVoice

myVoice is Rio Tinto's confidential whistleblower program. myVoice is available to anyone who has concerns or information relating to misconduct or improper circumstances or behaviours connected to Rio Tinto. What happens after a myVoice report is made, differs from the process we have outlined above.



**For myVoice  
Scan or Ring  
1300 729 358**



## Internal document references

The below table references the Bell Bay Aluminium internal related documents used to create this summary environment and social management plan.

Related Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Air quality control management plan</li><li>• Water management plan</li><li>• Land use management plan</li><li>• Cultural heritage management plan</li><li>• Greenhouse gas emissions reporting procedure</li><li>• Waste management plan</li><li>• Communities and social performance plan</li></ul>