



BELL BAY ALUMINIUM
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT
SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES **2024**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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.

INTRODUCTION

Rio Tinto Bell Bay Aluminium (BBA) is situated on the Kanamaluka/Tamar River, about 45 kilometres from Launceston and 5 kilometres from George Town. The smelter was established in 1955 as a joint initiative between the state and federal governments to overcome Australia's dependence on imported aluminium. Rio Tinto acquired the smelter in 1960.

BBA is a key economic and community player in Northern Tasmania, employing more than 500 full-time staff and contractors. It drives local supply chains and significantly contributes to George Town's economy and Tasmania's Gross State Product. BBA fosters regional innovation through the Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone and supports community well-being by providing stable jobs, investing in skill development, and partnering with the community.



PROCESS



Rio Tinto Bell Bay Aluminium regularly undertakes Social and Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) to identify and manage the potential impacts of its activities on the environment and the community.

These studies help BBA respond to changes that could affect local communities or its business.

In 2023, BBA engaged 3P Advisory to complete the SEIA. The SEIA report will guide BBA's operational and business planning as well as inform how we work with community to support initiatives that create a prosperous future for the region.

CONSULTATION – WHAT WE HEARD

An important input into the SEIA involved understanding the perspectives of key stakeholders. Thank you to the businesses, employees, key stakeholders, and partners who participated and provided valuable feedback

30
STAKEHOLDERS
INTERVIEWED

20
BUSINESS SURVEYS
CONDUCTED
WITH LOCAL
SUPPLIERS

PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED:

BBA employees

Federal, State and Local
Government representatives and agencies

Key community organisations in
George Town, West Tamar and Launceston

Industry bodies and businesses in
George Town, West Tamar and Launceston

KEY FINDINGS OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT

BBA's operations significantly contribute to Tasmania's economy through various measures of output, employment, wages, and value-added contributions. The following table summarises the supply chain and consumption effect of BBA based on 2022 data.

IMPACTS	OUTPUT (\$M)	EMPLOYMENT (FTE)	WAGES AND SALARIES (\$M)	VALUE-ADDED (\$M)
DIRECT BBA	\$662M	546	\$51M	\$100M
Supply-chain effect	\$205	421	\$35	\$81
Consumption effect (of employees)	\$120	308	\$14	\$64
TOTAL	\$986M	1,246	\$97M	\$245M

BUSINESS SURVEYS

The survey aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of BBA's role in the local economy and its direct impact on its supply chain partners.

Respondents included providers of industrial products, combustion support, equipment hire, accommodation, labor hire, security, media production, fabrication, and maintenance support. This diverse group reflects BBA's varied supply chain, including both large and small businesses with different service lengths and dependency levels on BBA.

Among the suppliers surveyed, 65% have been supplying BBA for more than 10 years.

40% of suppliers receive less than **10%** of their revenue from BBA, indicating low dependency on BBA.

25% of suppliers fall in the **11-25%** of revenue range, indicating moderate dependency.

30% of suppliers have **high dependency** on the revenue generated from working with BBA.

5% receive more than **75%** of their revenue from BBA, demonstrating critical reliance on the smelter.

A total of 95% of suppliers view BBA's impact on their business as positive (53%) or highly positive (42%), showing a strong and beneficial relationship. Only 5% see the impact as neutral.

"Their apprenticeship and vocational awards are making a significant difference for young people, preparing them for long-term success."



COMMON THEMES FROM THE SEIA



SIGNIFICANT EMPLOYMENT CONTRIBUTOR

BBA is widely recognised as a key driver of employment in George Town, especially for young people. Stakeholders agree that replacing the jobs provided by BBA would be challenging if the company was to close.

While renewable energy projects in the Bell Bay precinct offer new opportunities, many stakeholders believe they will not match the employment levels provided by BBA.



ACTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BBA is acknowledged for its involvement in community programs, including contributions to education, community grants, and other community projects.

Stakeholders appreciate BBA's support for educational and health initiatives. The mountain bike trails project is particularly well-regarded.



ENHANCING COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Stakeholders agree that BBA enhances George Town's community identity, contributing not only economically but also to its social and cultural fabric.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Most stakeholders view BBA's impact on community life positively but also express caution about the community's dependency on a single industry.



FUTURE COMMITMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Some stakeholders are optimistic, while others are concerned about potential environmental challenges and the market-driven nature of the company.



“The presence of Bell Bay Aluminium creates a foundation of aspiration and opportunity for local people.”

OVERALL SENTIMENT

Stakeholders view BBA as a cornerstone of the George Town community and a major industry provider in Northern Tasmania. BBA is valued for job creation, community engagement, and enhancing local identity. However, concerns exist about the long-term sustainability of relying on a single industry, environmental impacts, and the need for a diversified economic base.

Stakeholders emphasise the importance of a balanced view of BBA's role, considering both benefits and potential challenges for future sustainability and community well-being. This highlights the need for ongoing dialogue and collaboration to ensure a thriving and resilient George Town and northern region.

OUTCOMES OF THE SOCIAL ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BENEFITS

Employment Contribution:

BBA provides significant employment opportunities, particularly for young people, through apprenticeships and graduate programs.

Community Investment:

BBA actively supports local schools, arts organisations, and community services, fostering community pride and inclusion.

Infrastructure Development (regional economic development):

BBA has invested in local infrastructure projects, such as the George Town Mountain Bike Trail Network, enhancing livability and recreational opportunities.

Economic Stability:

BBA's operations significantly contribute to the local economy, supporting local supply chains and driving economic activity.

Skill Development:

BBA invests in skill development programs, contributing to the local workforce's capabilities and future employment prospects.

IMPACTS

Economic Dependency:

High dependency on BBA for employment and economic stability poses risks, especially in the event of operational challenges or potential closure.

Environmental Concerns:

Community perceptions about the energy-intensive nature of aluminium production and impacts to resource allocation and long-term sustainability.

Health and Environmental Impact:

Community perceptions about the smelter's impact on the environment and the community's health and wellbeing.

NEXT STEPS

BBA is more than just a major employer; it acts as an economic catalyst and community partner. However, its contributions must be balanced with challenges like dependency, affordability, and sustainability.

Through strategic planning, inclusive engagement, and targeted investments in skills, social cohesion, well-being, and infrastructure, Northern Tasmania can maximise BBA's benefits while preparing for a diversified and resilient economic future.

The Rio Tinto Bell Bay Aluminium team has integrated the SEIA information into its Community and Social Performance (CSP) Plan for 2025-2027. The focus areas include:

- Effectively managing operational social risks and impacts.
- Engaging with community to maintain strong relationships through ongoing dialogue and collaboration.
- Making positive contributions to the community.

We look forward to sharing more with the Tasmanian community about our CSP plan and priorities for the next three years.



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Photography by Rob Burnett

FIND OUT MORE:

Should you have any questions or would like more information in relation to the SEIA, contact Lou Clark or Rochelle Galloway.

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