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# MEDIA RELEASE

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Tasmania's *Big Picture* industry coalition has welcomed Energy and Resources Minister the Hon. Bryan Green's open support of the public campaign in yesterday's Government Business scrutiny session with Transend Networks.

Addressing the Legislative Council committee Minister Green said it was great the major industrials in Tasmania have formed a coalition and are working to ensure the Tasmanian people understand how important they are to the State.

"They are highlighting to the Tasmanian people just how important they are as a driver for the economy," Minister Green said.

General Manager Bell Bay Aluminium Ray Mostogl said the Minister had acknowledged he had not been as proactive as he could in allowing Tasmanians to understand how important the major industrials are to the State.

"The priority now is to move forward collaboratively in the best interests of retaining jobs and opportunities for today's workers and importantly our next generation of Tasmanians," Mr Mostogl said. "Creating a proactive business environment in our State is critical and we have welcomed preliminary discussions with the Minister on a more collaborative approach to strike the balance of effective outcomes between government business services and industry."

General Manager Nyrstar Hobart Jeremy Kouw said there is a misconception that the major industries have access to subsidised power.

"This is simply not the case. In fact the Expert Electricity Panel conclusively proved in 2012 that the major energy users did not have access to subsidised power," Mr Kouw said.

"I believe it is also important to recognise that the energy intensive companies in Tasmania use over half of the State's power. Our high consumption keeps prices down for Tasmanian families because we provide a stable baseload demand to the electricity system. Having affordable and competitive energy prices will retain and attract major employers so they can invest and grow in the future; creating more jobs for Tasmanians."

General Manager Norske Skog Boyer Rod Bender said the public needed to be aware of the major impact a loss or downsizing of one of the major industries would have on other energy users and the Tasmanian economy in general. He welcomed the Minister's acknowledgment of this in the scrutiny hearings.

Mr Bender said the focus in Tasmania had to be on greater collaboration to ensure jobs remained in the State.

"Using clean hydro power here in Tasmania adds value, creates employment and provides community and economic benefits far in excess of sending power across Bass Strait," he said.

"Like all my industry colleagues my focus is on continuing to be a strong employment provider for Tasmanians, a stimulant for the economy, and remaining profitable so that we can keep investing in important environmental sustainability programs."

The four companies behind the *Big Picture Tasmania* campaign are worth more than \$2 billion every year to the State and inject more than \$300 million in wages annually into critical community, tourism and business sectors.

*The Big Picture is building stronger communities and cementing opportunities for Tasmanians for generations to come.*

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