

* URGENT - NEWSDESK

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only.



PRIME MINISTER

16/92

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP

The Commonwealth Government's offer to fund half the costs of a feasibility study for the Bell Bay Steel Mill stands.

There has never been any doubt about the willingness of the Commonwealth to allocate \$500,000 to fund the study.

It is uncertain whether Premier elect Groom is committed to the project. As late as this morning, in the Launceston Examiner, it was unclear whether Mr Groom was committed to State Government funding.

Mr Groom should make it clear that his Government is committed to funding the study and put the interests of Tasmania ahead of attempts at political point scoring.

All Mr Groom has to do is to indicate his unequivocal commitment to his Government funding its share of the study.

13 FEBRUARY 1992