



SENATE RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT REFERENCES COMMITTEE

Department of Infrastructure

Written questions on notice from Senator Carol Brown, 9 September 2020

1. Are any changes to the Bass Strait Passenger Vehicle Equalisation Scheme being considered?
2. When were those approaches made?
3. Could you provide me with a timeline around those proposals? Are you also able to give me an understanding of what was being proposed?

Answers

- The Department is not currently considering any changes to the scheme.
- TT-Line approached the Department in April and June 2020 to seek additional funding to support it through COVID-19.
- The Department understands however, that TT-Line has been working with the Tasmanian Government to ensure they have sufficient funds to continue to operate. TT-Line has continued to operate its daily services between Tasmania and the mainland.



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1. How many foreign flagged vessels undertaking coastal shipping under temporary licenses have been investigated by AMSA for violations of Maritime Labour Convention over the past 10 years?

Since 1 July 2012, when the *Coastal Trading (Revitalising Australian Shipping) Act 2012* (the Act) commenced, there have been 202 vessels that have engaged in coastal trading on a temporary licence that have appeared on AMSA's MLC Complaints Register.

2. If a foreign flagged vessel is investigated by AMSA for breaches of the MLC are they still able to apply for temporary licenses to undertake coastal shipping?

Requirements under the *Maritime Labour Convention 2006* are regulated under the *Navigation Act 2012* not the *Coastal Trading (Revitalising Australian Shipping) Act 2012*.



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1. Are you able to give me a copy of the Terms of Reference?

Yes. Attached is a copy of the Terms of Reference.

VESSEL REPLACEMENT TASKFORCE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

The Tasmanian Government is committed to ensuring that Government and Government business purchases and asset acquisitions are sourced or produced within Australia, where possible, to support local and Australian jobs.

The proposed replacement of TT-Line's passenger ferries represents a significant investment by the State, which could provide opportunities for Australian businesses to play a role in the replacement of the vessels.

In order to investigate this opportunity, the Government announced that it would establish a Vessel Replacement Taskforce to investigate options for greater involvement by Australian businesses in the replacement of TT-Line's vessels.

The Tasmanian Government remains committed to replacing the *Spirits of Tasmania* before they approach the end of their optimal lifespan in 2028.

Purpose

The Taskforce will provide advice to Government on options to replace TT-Line's vessels, which meet the freight and passenger volume projections that are expected in the medium to long term.

The Taskforce will provide advice on the opportunity for Tasmanian and Australian businesses to contribute to the replacement of the vessels.

The Taskforce will seek expert technical advice as required and will engage with relevant businesses or industry representatives as part of its investigations.

Focus of the Taskforce

The Taskforce will provide advice to Government in relation to:

- Tasmanian sea freight and passenger volume projections that are expected in the medium to long term, taking into account private sector capacity;
- options for vessel replacement, which meet these projections;
- the capability and capacity of the Australian ship building industry to contribute to the replacement of TT-Line's vessels;
- the estimated costs and economic contribution of the options;
- implications of the potential options for TT-Line's existing business model; and
- the risks of the potential options.

Governance and work plan

The Taskforce will provide a report to Cabinet through the TT-Line Ships Replacement Committee of Cabinet over the next three to six months. The Ships Replacement Committee will oversee the work and provide direction as required.

Specific timeframes will be determined once the Taskforce has had the opportunity to engage with relevant expert technical advisers.

The format, structure and timing of Taskforce meetings will be determined by the Chair and considered at the first meeting.

Membership

The Taskforce will be comprised of the following members:

Mr Tony Ferrall (Chair)	Secretary, Department of Treasury and Finance
Mr Kim Evans	Secretary, Department of State Growth
Mr Craig Limkin	Deputy Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Mr Bernard Dwyer	Chief Executive Officer, TT-Line
Mr Sacha De Re	Assistant Secretary, Department of Finance
Rear Admiral (Rtd) Steve Gilmore AM	Tasmanian Defence Advocate

Secretariat

Dedicated resources will be established in the Department of Treasury and Finance, to provide Secretariat support for the Taskforce. The Secretariat will draw on resources from across Government as required.

The Secretariat will be responsible for administrative support, the drafting of agendas and meeting papers, and undertaking research. Secretariat staff will liaise at officer level with TT-Line, consultants engaged by the Taskforce, and other organisations as required. The Secretariat will prepare papers, including recommendations, for the consideration of the Taskforce.