



5 December 2024

Committee Secretariat
Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme Select Committee

By email: tfes.sen@aph.gov.au

Attention: Committee Secretariat

Select Committee – Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the TFES Committee hearing in Hobart on 13 November 2024. I am happy to provide the following information in response to questions taken on notice.

Commencement of Strait Link lease

As discussed at the hearing, our domestic shipping customers (like Strait Link, Searoad and TT-Line) have previously had the benefit of long-term leases that were put in place by the port businesses that were established prior to the establishment of the TasPorts organisation. When TasPorts was formed in 2006, our organisation took on as legacy some of those commercial arrangements that were put in place by the Port of Burnie and the Port of Devonport, who during the times of those negotiations and commercial agreements were competing with each other. One of the benefits associated with the formation of TasPorts was such that competition within ports within Tasmania was seemingly not in the best interests of Tasmania, and the establishment of TasPorts enabled a better outcome for the state.

TasPorts assumed responsibility of the ports of Burnie and Devonport when it formed in 2006.

The current lease with Strait Link commenced on 30 January 1992. At the time the lease was between Burnie Marine Board and Brambles Australia Limited.

Wharf rates in place with new commercial agreements *and historical rates*

In the absence of a dedicated customer contract, TasPorts will publish (via its website) the Bass Strait high frequency user rates. Please refer **Attachment A – CONFIDENTIAL NOT FOR RELEASE – Legacy Rates**.

Wharfage rates for King and Flinders Islands

TasPorts' wharfage rates for King and Flinders Island are published in our Schedule of Port Charges here: [TasPorts-Schedule-of-Port-Charges_effective-1-July-2024.pdf](#)

Further I urge the Committee to draw comparison to mainland rates.

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Port of Hobart
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Percentage of product transhipped by Bass Island Line

In FY24, 36% of total cargo (2289 TEUs out of a total of 6362 TEUs were transshipped). The largest transshipped commodity was related to mineral sand shipments making up 49% of total transshipped cargo in FY24.

How many fully-loaded log trucks are exported through TasPorts' facilities?

Export logs go out in a number of different forms – some as bulk (SET), some as containers (TEU), and some as trailers.

TasPorts' information received on TT-Line vessel manifests reports a broad Pack Code 'Timber Products' (includes sawn timber, log flitches, logs, timber furniture and other timber products etc) and therefore no log trailers and volume is reported for FY2024.

Log trailers are transited via SeaRoad however the question of quantities are for SeaRoad (our preference is not to disclose individual customer volumes).

We report total export (logs) and not by customer. In FY2024 total logs (bulk and containerised) increased to just over 452,000 tonnes (50% increase from FY2023 volumes).

Yours sincerely

Anthony Donald
Chief Executive Officer