



Rail in Tasmania

The Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council welcomed today's news that the Tasmanian Government and Asciano have reached an interim agreement to resolve the rail crisis, subject to State Cabinet and Asciano Board approval, with ownership of all of Asciano's rail assets in Tasmania to transfer to Tasmanian Government ownership prior to the end of the year.

The Council's CEO, Rob McGuire, responded to the announcement by saying that it is great news for Tasmania and will be welcomed by both shippers and industry alike.

"It is clear that Pacific National has not been not committed to rail in Tasmania and this has resulted in a rundown of rail services in Tasmania in recent years" said McGuire.

The Council congratulated the Tasmanian Government on its positive and prompt resolution of the rail crisis and looks forward to a new dawn for rail in Tasmania when it can return to its rightful place as the major long distance transport mode in the state.

McGuire believes that the announcement will end the uncertainty that has surrounded rail in Tasmania for some time now and is fantastic news for the people working in the business who will know that their jobs are now safe.

Tasmania will now have a rail service run by an operator who knows how business operates in the state. In addition both the Federal and State Governments have committed significant infrastructure expenditure on restoration of the rail line throughout the state which will result in fewer derailments in the future and a more reliable service.

This is very positive news for Tasmanian businesses that rely on rail for freight of their goods in Tasmania – and is also good news for users of the State's highways which will have far less truck movements on them when the north – south rail line – which has been closed since the middle of May 2009 after a serious derailment at Ryndaston - re-opens on Tuesday. This means that it is business as usual for all Tasmanian rail services next week and well into the future.

Rob McGuire
Chief Executive Officer
Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council

20 June 2009