



APRIL 2011

New Heavy Vehicle National Laws

The National Transport Commission (NTC) in partnership with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator Project Office held a forum in Hobart during March 2011 to explain the proposed national heavy vehicle laws and seek input from those impacted.

The forum provided an overview of the key aspects of the proposed Draft Heavy Vehicle National Laws and the accompanying Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) which was released publically in February 2011. It also explored how the Regulator will operate and provided participants with an opportunity to ask questions and have their say.

The proposed law will be administered by the new Regulator and is expected to be operational by 1 January 2013. The laws will apply to all vehicles over 4.5 tonnes.

Once implemented, these laws are expected to:

- Reduce compliance costs for industry which will now have the benefit of a 'one-stop shop' for all things related to heavy vehicles.
- Improve internal review and, in some cases, external review mechanisms to promote fairness and equity and improve industry's ability to plan and confidently invest.
- Provide a new decision making framework for important decisions around registration, accreditation and access.
- Make securing 'last mile' access easier and fairer because the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator will coordinate access requests on behalf of industry and the relevant Road Manager.

More information about proposed national heavy vehicle laws can be found on the NTC website: <http://ntc.gov.au/viewpage.aspx?documentid=1931>

The draft Heavy Vehicle National Laws and Regulatory Impact Statement are now open for public consultation. Written submissions must be submitted to the NTC by 6 May 2011.

Reduction in Air Freight Capacity

The Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council recently raised concerns at Virgin Blue's decision to reduce its number of flights in and out of Hobart and Launceston Airports for the coming Autumn and Winter months.

Virgin Blue plans to downgrade its late afternoon daily Hobart – Melbourne flight to the smaller Embraer plane and to cancel its early afternoon daily Hobart – Melbourne flight altogether over the Autumn /Winter period. A late afternoon Launceston – Melbourne flight has also been cancelled.

Virgin Blue's decision is bad news for Tasmania and one which will not be welcomed by Tasmanian businesses that rely on Virgin Blue to move their products to the mainland and the world.

The decision will severely impact on exporters who rely on air travel to get their high-value perishable products – particularly live seafood - to interstate and overseas markets.

Any reduction in capacity to provide reliable air freight services between Tasmania and Victoria that suit international flights immediately rings alarm bells for the Council.

Live seafood such as abalone and lobster must be flown from Tasmania to arrive on the mainland as close as possible to international departures so that the fish survive the entire export journey.

Fewer flights will mean less freight capacity and will result in exporters having real concerns on their ability to maintain their market share and compete in a global market.

The Council understands that all these flights have high passenger numbers and are supplemented with large loadings of live seafood. If that is the case it is difficult to understand Virgin Blue's decision.

This decision will be detrimental to the Tasmanian economy, Tasmanian exporters and also to passengers due to a lack of available seating.

Australian Transport Association's Travelling Road Exhibition comes to Agfest

The Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council is bringing the Australian Trucking Association (ATA)'s – The Road Ahead - national touring exhibition to Tasmania again in May 2011 including a visit to Agfest.

The touring exhibition is aimed at addressing critical skills shortages in the road transport industry and to contribute to improved safety conditions on the nation's highways. This is a state-of-the-art demonstration semi-trailer filled with interactive displays about road safety and the trucking industry.

The ATA's touring exhibition will visit Tasmania from 2 – 20 May 2010 with overnight stops in Devonport Queenstown, Hobart and Launceston. The visit is being aimed at Year 9 and 10 students and it is hoped that students from many schools will take advantage of the opportunity to visit the touring exhibition and find out about the variety of career opportunities available in the transport and logistics industry.

If you would like to have a look at the touring exhibition when it comes to your area please contact the Council.

Fatality Free Friday 2011

The Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council strongly supports Fatality Free Friday and urges you to get involved. Road safety is a complex issue but we believe that if drivers consciously think about road safety and safe driving for just one Friday in the year, that day's toll - statistically about 5.3 deaths - could be reduced to zero. That's our aim. Not a single road death in Australia for just one day. Just one Fatality Free Friday – on Friday 27 May 2011. And we further hope that by making people think about staying alive on the road on Fatality Free Friday, they'll drive safer for the next few days too and reduce the traditionally high weekend fatality rate. Each year, around 1,600 people die on Australia's roads. By far the most dangerous days - those which statistically suffer the most deaths - are Friday, Saturday and Sunday. For further details: go to <http://www.fatalityfreefriday.com>.

Tasmanian Transport & Logistics Workforce Advisory Group

At the last meeting of the Tasmanian Transport and Logistics Workforce Advisory Group (TT&LWAG) on 6 December 2010, the Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources (DIER) advised that, in its current form, the TT&LWAG would be formally wound up. DIER advised that it was up to the transport and logistics industry in Tasmania to determine if there was a need for a revamped TT&LWAG to continue to operate in Tasmania.

A meeting of interested stakeholders was held in Campbell Town on 24 February 2011 to determine if industry does believe that there is a need for the work of the TT&LWAG to continue and, if so, to finalise the composition of and the terms of reference of the revamped TT&LWAG - with an aim of making some recommendations back to the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the appointment of a new TT&LWAG going forward from then.

Everyone present at the meeting was strongly in favour of the establishment of a revamped TT&LWAG. A draft terms of reference of the revamped TT&LWAG was presented to the meeting and was agreed upon. It was also agreed that the Secretariat of the revamped TT&LWAG should remain with the Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council if at all possible.

Thirteen nominations have already been received for membership of the revamped TT&LWAG although nominations from industry have been disappointing. The Council intends to approach the Minister for Infrastructure this month seeking his approval for the appointment of the members of the TT&LWAG.

Future of Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council

No decision has yet been made by the Tasmanian Government on the Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council's submission seeking the reinstatement of Tasmanian Government funding of the Council from 1 July 2011. The Council appreciates the many telephone calls and letters of support sent by Members to the Minister for Infrastructure, local Members of Parliament and the Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources in support of the Council's submission. In the meantime, it will be "business as usual" for the Council.

Loss of Tasmania's International Shipping Service

The Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council recently raised concerns at the announcement that the AAA service will cease its Tasmanian international shipping service at the end of April 2011.

The announcement is bad news for Tasmania and one which will not be welcomed by many Tasmanian businesses that rely on the AAA service to import their products from or export their products to the world.

The AAA service has been an essential part of Tasmania's international trading success in recent years and the news has come as a large disappointment to a lot of importers and exporters.

The AAA Consortium, which is made up of four international shipping companies that share space on vessels, is currently the only international container vessel service from Bell Bay. Unfortunately, the service has been plagued with scheduling issues in recent years with many scheduled services being cancelled.

Without the service, Tasmanian importers and exporters will be forced to ship international goods via Melbourne. This will mean that Tasmanian producers, exporters and importers will pay more for transport in the future due to the additional handling required. Any substantial increase in costs could result in some exporters being unable to compete in a global market.

The Council has had several meetings with representatives from the Minister for Infrastructure's Office and the Department of Economic Development. The general consensus is that nothing can be done to reverse this decision and that another international shipping service is unlikely to fill the void.

In the meantime, ANL has issued media releases and taken out advertisements in Tasmanian newspapers advising that it has been catering to Tasmanian importers and exporters for over 50 years and will continue to do so.

ANL Container Line Managing Director John Lines claims that Tasmanian exporters and importers have no reason to be concerned about the lack of direct international container vessel calls in Tasmania. ANL is part of the CMA CGM Group, which is the third largest container line in the world, and can offer sailings to and from Tasmania six days per week. These sailings connect at Melbourne under a through bill of lading with ANL's extensive international services that cover the globe including North and South East Asia, Europe, USA, PNG, New Zealand and the Indian sub continent.

Welcome New Member

The Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council would like to welcome the following new member – Mark Ashton from Collective Intelligence Group.

If you know of anyone in the industry that may wish to become a member please let Rob McGuire know and he will talk to them about the many benefits of becoming a member. Rob can be contacted by phone on (03) 6236 3663 or email on freightlogistics@tcci.com.au

Regional Ports Summit

This year's Regional Ports Summit will be held at the Grand Chancellor Hotel in Launceston on 21 and 22 July 2011. Hosted by Lloyd's List DCN and TasPorts, the 6th annual Regional Ports Summit will showcase Australia's latest port developments and assess the planning, finance and operating strategies that drive regional ports: critical links in a seamless national economy. Mark these dates in your diary now – for more details on the summit go to the following website: www.informa.com.au/regionalports.

Smart Supply Chain Conference 2011

The Smart 2011 conference and expo will be held at Sydney's Darling Harbour from Wednesday, May 25, to Thursday, May 26, 2011. The event will focus on the theme *The Road Ahead: Supply Chain Models for the Future*, providing plenty of strategic information and tools for those working in supply chain and logistics management as they move into the future. For the full program and registration see www.smartconference.com.au.

Women Moving Forward Mentoring Program

Women Moving Forward (WMF) is a program that builds the efficiency, capability and number of jobs in T&L by supporting the development of women. It is open to all women, in any role, in any region in any T&L company. The WMF program has been designed specifically for women in T&L and challenges them to identify, plan and implement actions to achieve their professional and personal goals.

Over 350 women representing over 130 companies have been part of WMF to date with 53 women from over 30 organisations participating from around Australia in 2010. The program continues to incorporate a high quality, self-paced and cost effective mentoring program, targeting the retention and development of women within the T&L industry. The program identifies what women want in their personal and professional lives and helps get them there.

The next Women Moving Forward Program will commence on 23 June 2011. Be one of the first 70 to apply and you will receive an Australian Government subsidy of \$200. Registrations close on 3 June 2011. To find out more or to register please visit www.cilta.com.au or contact Megan Hobson on phone 0459 363 271 or email education@cilta.com.au.

Reforming Australian Shipping

Following consultation with Members, the Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council forwarded a submission in response to the Federal Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) discussion paper for stakeholder consultation outlining proposed reforms for Australian shipping.

Thirty-three submissions (including the Council's) have now been posted on the DIT website as follows:

http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/maritime/shipping_reform/submissions.aspx. Tasmanian submissions include Australian Maritime College, SeaRoad Shipping Pty Ltd and TT-Line.

A number of other submissions received were submitted on a confidential basis.

Improved Freight Facilities at Launceston Airport

Launceston Airport has recently signed a \$1.5 million hangar redevelopment deal with Australian Air Express Pty Ltd (AaE) which will boost the airport's freight processing and handling facilities.

The long term agreement includes development of enhanced facilities for improved freight processing, and handling and reaffirms Launceston Airports' position as the major, centrally located, freight facility for Tasmania.

The key focus of the redevelopment is to increase capacity and develop enhanced handling and processing space as well as additional equipment storage to allow for more efficient operations. The redevelopment will improve the overall customer experience with additional parking provided and new staff offices and amenities will also be an integral part of the project.

Construction will commence shortly with completion scheduled for mid 2011.

Free Copies of MHD Supply Chain Solutions Magazines

The Australian Logistics Council has provided the Council with a number of copies of the January / February 2011 and the March / April 2011 issues of the MHD Supply Chain Solutions magazine. Copies of the magazines will be posted to members on request – please send an email to freightlogistics@tcci.com.au if you would like to receive your complimentary copy.

Thank You

The Council would like to acknowledge the major financial and other support that is provided to it from the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

