



APRIL 2008

National Career and Employment Expo

With the support of the Australian Logistics Council, the Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council will be hosting a Transport & Logistics stall at the National Career and Employment Expo which will be held at the Derwent Entertainment Centre on Friday 18 April and Saturday 19 April 2008. If Members would like to be part of the Hobart Expo, especially by providing people who could work on the stall over the two day period, please contact Rob McGuire at the Council on email freightlogistics@tcci.com.au or by phone on (03) 6236 3663.

Brighton Freight Hub

The Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council was represented at a one-day workshop on 31 January 2008 hosted by the Brighton Council regarding the proposed transport hub to be built at Brighton. The purpose of the workshop was to engage key stakeholders to identify key issues, concerns and expectations for the transport hub.

The workshop was addressed by the Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER), Mark Addis, who confirmed that the transport hub will be built, a site has been selected near the Boral quarry at Brighton and that construction will hopefully commence in 2009.

Participants representing a cross section of industry, government and transport operators attended the workshop and provided valuable information to the Brighton Council that will be given to DIER to assist in the development of the project. Key outcomes from the workshop were:

- There was general consensus that there is an immediate need for government/stakeholder consultation.
- A five step plan to move the Brighton transport hub project forward was developed:

A copy of the full report from the Workshop is available from the Council upon request.

New National Transport and Logistics (T&L) Strategy

Ivan Backman, Chairman of the Australian Logistics Council (ALC), launched the National Strategy for the Transport and Logistics Freight Industry 2008-2015 at an ALC Forum held in Canberra during February 2008.

“With our industry worth an estimated 14.5% of GDP, or \$150 billion to Australia each year, every one percent of productivity gained or lost is worth \$1.5 billion,” Mr Backman said. “Already infrastructure bottlenecks and regulatory inconsistencies are dramatically slowing our performance and costing our economy, both financially and in missed opportunities. I challenge governments and industry to join together to place as their highest priority addressing the weakest links in our supply chain, ensuring productivity growth of at least 1 per cent each year.”

“This will save Australia, consumers and our clients at least \$1.5 billion a year or \$12 billion over the eight year term of the National Strategy even without the projected freight growth. The National Strategy for the Transport and Logistics Freight Industry sets out concrete reforms for Governments and Industry to commit to as priorities.”

“There is an unprecedented chance with all state, territory and Federal Governments in political alignment to take on real reform.”

“It is promising the new Federal Government has already committed to Infrastructure Australia and a National Transport Policy and Plan, but it is vital these are developed from an intermodal perspective. I challenge industry and governments to commit to the real reforms critical to improve productivity.”

A copy of the new strategy is available by contacting the Australian Logistics Council.

Quarantine and Biosecurity Review

The Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council has been advised of an independent review of Australia's quarantine and biosecurity arrangements by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Farmers, conservationists, food importers and exporters, transport operators, government and government agencies are among the many stakeholders being asked to help shape Australia's future quarantine and biosecurity arrangements.

The independent review of Australia's quarantine and biosecurity arrangements, announced in February 2008 by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke, is now receiving submissions from affected and interested parties. Details on how to make a submission or for further information on the review are available from the Quarantine and Biosecurity Review's website www.quarantinebiosecurityreview.gov.au. The Review Secretariat can also be contacted directly on telephone 1800 196 192 or by email quarantinebiosecurityreview@daff.gov.au.

An Issues Paper will provide guidance for people in preparing their input to the review. It also poses some specific questions which particularly interest the Review Panel. The paper can be downloaded from www.quarantinebiosecurityreview.gov.au.

It has been brought to the Council's attention that some Members may be reluctant to point out difficulties that they may be having with AQIS in case it has a negative reaction on their business from AQIS or AQIS staff in the future. The Council believes that it is most important that any such issues or difficulties should be brought to the attention of the Review Panel and that this opportunity should not be wasted. Accordingly the Council is prepared to make a submission on behalf of Tasmanian industry on any issues that are brought to our attention. The source of any such issues will not be revealed to the Review Panel by the Council without the written authority of the Member concerned so your anonymity is guaranteed if that is your wish.

The Council would require any information by COB on Monday 21 April 2008 to enable it to compile any such information into a formal submission to the Review Panel before the closing date for submissions of Monday 28 April 2008.

Following the formal submission period, the Panel will travel to each state and territory to conduct focussed forums in an effort to hear stakeholder views. The Panel is due to deliver its report and recommendations to Minister Burke by 30 September 2008.

For further information on this matter please contact the Council.

Reforms to Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme and the Tasmanian Wheat Freight Scheme

The Federal Government's Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government is looking at possible changes to the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme (TFES) and the Tasmanian Wheat Freight Scheme (TWFS) and is currently seeking comment from industry and stakeholders on the design and implementation of changes to the administration of the schemes. A series of public consultation workshops and individual meetings were held in Tasmania from 3 – 7 March 2008. A Discussion Paper on the proposed changes was circulated to all Members in March 2008.

The Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council convened an urgent meeting of any interested parties prior to the public consultation workshops to outline details of the proposed review, to share information between parties, to identify areas of concern and to discuss what needs to be done to present the strongest possible case to the current review. If you would like more information on the various issues that were raised at that meeting please contact the Council.

Members are encouraged to find the time to read the Discussion Paper and consider the potential impact of the review on your business. In particular, Members are asked to try and identify if there are there any "hidden" issues in the Discussion Paper that could significantly reduce the current or future level of assistance under TFES or TWS.

The timeframe for written submissions has been extended to Friday 2 May 2008.

For further information on this matter please contact the Council on (03) 6236 3663.

Houston's Farm to Study Carbon Emissions

Tasmanian lettuce supplier Houston's Farm will undertake the first carbon emissions study into Australia's fruit and vegetable industry.

The company was awarded the very first \$100,000 grant from the Woolworths bursary program.

Houston's Farm decided to apply for the bursary after following the global debate about carbon emissions and food miles (the carbon consumed as a result of transporting food from source to shelf). It intends to use the bursary to develop a way to analyse the carbon footprint of fresh produce grown in Australia.

The Woolworths \$1 million bursary program will run for ten years - with one \$100,000 grant awarded each year - and is designed to encourage innovation and sustainability in the fresh food industry. Applications are open to any Australian fresh food producer in the following categories:

- Fresh Food Product Development
- Fresh Food Farming Process Improvement
- Fresh Food Packaging Innovation

Spirit of Tasmania Dry Docking Arrangements

In July 2007, the Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council advised members of a potential problem for Tasmanian shippers of perishable and other goods from Devonport to Melbourne during the period of the Spirit of Tasmania dry docking in July and August 2007. During the period of dry docking, from Monday to Friday, the sailing schedule was as follows:

- Departs from Melbourne each night at 9pm - arriving in Devonport at 6am the following morning.
- Departs from Devonport each morning at 9am - arriving in Melbourne at 6pm the same day.

The TT-Line has confirmed that the schedule for 2008 - during the dry-docking period from 27 July 2008 to 16 August 2008 - will remain the same as for 2007 following overwhelming support for the 2007 arrangements by major freight-forwarders.

Freight and Tiger Airways

The Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council has approached Tiger Airways requesting that it considers introducing an air freight service on its recently-introduced daily return passenger services from Melbourne to Launceston and Hobart. Tiger Airways has advised that no freight is being carried on any of their new Tasmanian services (or any Australian services for that matter) and that there are no plans to carry freight in the immediate future. Their biggest concern at present is being able to turn their aircraft around between flights in thirty minutes - and this time frame does not allow time for freight. Tiger Airways only operate four aircraft in Australia at present, however, if more aircraft come on line in the future it may consider having freight on their aircraft.

Tasmanian Exports Continue To Grow

Tasmanian exports continue to outperform national exports according to Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures released in February 2008.

The value of overseas merchandise exports from Tasmania grew by 13.1 per cent to \$3.75 billion in the year to December 2007 compared to the previous year. The national growth in the same period was just 2.6 per cent.

The enormous growth in China, India and the rest of Asia has had huge spinoffs for Tasmania. Japan remained the single largest importer of Tasmanian goods in the year to December 2007 accounting for 18.7 per cent of the State's total exports. Hong Kong was the second largest importer, accounting for 13.3 per cent of total exports.

Port Phillip Bay Channel Deepening Starts

The Port of Melbourne Corporation commenced the Port Phillip Bay Channel Deepening Project in February 2008. If the channels are not deepened to handle modern container ships, vital international trade could be lost which could impact on Tasmanian importers and exporters.

Supply Chain Quality Monitoring Program

The Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council recently undertook supply-chain specific research to identify key procedures needed to maintain integrity of product as it moved along the chain and developed case study material of best practice for the product/industry and type of supply-chain. The findings of the research were invaluable to the four companies concerned and enabled all four companies to improve the integrity of their supply chains. Full details of the research have been developed into brochures. If you would like a copy of the brochures or more information please contact the Council.

Fatigue Management for Transport and Logistics

There is growing recognition that fatigue plays a key part in many accidents in the transport and logistics industry. To help organisations manage their fatigue responsibilities and meet their responsibilities, a Fatigue Management for Transport and Logistics conference will be held on Tuesday 22 April and Wednesday 23 April 2008 at the Rendezvous Hotel, Melbourne. For more information visit www.iqpc.com/au/fatigue or email registration@iqpc.com.au.

Melbourne Materials Handling

If it is your job to effectively control and improve process efficiency, you may be interested in visiting the Melbourne Materials Handling Trade Show to find the latest solutions to lift, shift, move, track and store goods. The Trade Show will be held from Tuesday 29 April to Thursday 1 May 2008 at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre. For more information visit www.melbmaterials handling.com.au or email mmh@aec.net.au.

Australasian Freight Logistics Magazine

The Australasian Freight Logistics Magazine - the official journal of the Australian Logistics Council (ALC) is an informative and entertaining magazine which is all about freight logistics. The Council is a Member of the ALC and has been provided with a number of copies of the February / March 2008 issue of the magazine – a copy of which has been forwarded with this News Bulletin. We hope you enjoy the magazine.

Can the Council Help You?

The Council is constantly reviewing what is happening in the Tasmanian freight community and trying to keep abreast of activities that improve logistics standards, quality management of supply chains, training support, packaging and transport systems.

The Council is acutely aware that it must remain relevant to the industry and particularly to its Members. If there is something that you think we should be doing (or something that we are currently doing that you believe we should not be doing), the Council would like to hear from you. Similarly if there is something that we can do to help you, the Council would like to hear from you as well.

If you wish to speak to the Council about any issues, please contact the Council on (03) 6236 3663 or email on freightlogistics@tcci.com.au

Thank You

The Council would like to acknowledge the major financial and other support that is provided to it from the following:



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
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