



JANUARY 2009

Happy New Year

On behalf of the Chairman, Philip Petersen, and the Board of Directors of the Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council, we would like to wish everyone a happy New Year and a great and prosperous 2009. Thank you for all your support in 2008 and we look forward to working with you all in 2009.

Kingborough / Huon Valley Freight Audit

In September 2008, the Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council commissioned Rural Development Services Pty Ltd to undertake a survey of freight logistics issues in the Kingborough and Huon Valley areas. The study was actioned to collect reliable data about freight flows to and from Tasmania's southern communities, to analyse the data objectively and to propose actions to increase efficiency and capacity utilisation of available freight infrastructure and equipment to the Kingborough and Huon Valley areas.

Rural Development Services Pty Ltd has now provided the Council with its final report which identifies actions that can be realistically undertaken to improve logistics efficiencies in these areas. The report found that more freight is being transported inwards compared to outwards with outwards capacity often being under-utilised. Larger industries and producers appear to be well organised in relation to freight logistics but smaller industries and producers are not so well organised and could do with more support but, generally speaking, the regions freight requirements are well serviced by a network of local, regional and state-wide freight service providers.

The Council is currently drawing up an action plan in regard to the specific recommendations contained within the report.

A full copy of the report can be found on the Council's website www.freightlogistics.com.au or a hard copy of the report is available on request from the Council.

Jobs Crisis Looming for Transport and Logistics Industry

A critical shortage of skilled workers over the next decade in Australia's \$63 billion a year transport and logistics industry could threaten the nation's future economic growth. A poor community perception of the industry – leading to an inability to attract workers - is the major contributing factor to the looming jobs shortage.

This grave warning was made in December 2009 as the Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council unveiled a Tasmanian version of a national whole-of-industry careers information program designed to attract people to the industry.

The Logistics Information and Navigation Centre (LINC) website was officially launched in Hobart on 11 December 2009 by the Minister for Infrastructure, Mr Graeme Sturges MHA.

The Tasmanian LINC information website was developed by the South Australian Freight Council in partnership with the Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council. This web-based resource will enable the public, business and the freight industry to access specific information on career pathways and job information, industry sector information, assistance in locating service providers and major facilities, and fact sheets on diverse topics including regulatory change. Youth and other job seekers will be able to investigate jobs and plan career pathways through the transport and logistics industry, and learn about the skills and experience necessary to progress within the industry.

Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council Chairman, Mr Philip Petersen, said: "Australia's future economic viability relies on the efficient management of Australia's transport, storage and logistics industry. This crucial industry underpins every decision made by consumers, and is the vital cog in the wheel that keeps all Australian industry running. Without it, Australian industry and thousands of jobs will simply stall," he said.

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Jobs Crisis Looming for Transport and Logistics Industry (cont...)

Mr Petersen said the immediate challenge for the industry to combat the worker shortage was to change "people's mindset" by educating the community to the opportunities, diversity and challenges of a rapidly evolving and sophisticated industry.

LINC has been designed with that specific objective in mind by offering a "one-stop shop" for freight transport and careers information.

"Currently, we are not on the radar screens of people looking for work, a change of career path or industry, or young people looking at the different industries available in Tasmania, and the qualifications they need to enter those workforces. We believe LINC is the first step in the process of attracting new industry professionals and we are confident the program will be embraced very quickly," Mr Petersen said.

Infrastructure Minister Graeme Sturges MHA said the Tasmanian Government was working closely with the transport and logistics industry to foster an innovative approach to attracting and retaining the people to drive our industry forward.

"This country's transport, storage and logistics industry accounts for about nine per cent of Australia's GDP – or about \$63 billion a year. Nationally, the industry employs well over 460,000 people.

"With the amount of freight moved around the country expected to double between now and 2020, coupled with the increased global demand for skills and labour it is essential that we work together to profile the industry for what it is - a dynamic and rapidly growing industry that is critical to the Australian economy," Mr Sturges said.

The LINC website will assist industry employers, educators and job seekers to easily access career information for Australia's multi-modal transport and logistics industry. It will be promoted through schools, professional industry associations and at various careers expos. For more information about the LINC website, and career opportunities in transport and logistics, contact the Council on (03) 6236 3663 or freightlogistics@tcci.com.au or check the LINC website www.the-linc.com.au

Review of Seafood Freight Logistics in Tasmania

In 2006, the Council undertook a survey of freight logistics issues within the seafood industry in Tasmania due to concerns being expressed within the industry about logistics issues which were impacting on the viability of the sector and the Council was keen to gain a greater understanding of the issues and identify where improvements could be achieved. Following receipt of the results of the survey, the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC), with the assistance of the Council, established a Working Group to develop and implement a Tasmanian seafood industry freight logistics strategic plan. The strategic plan has now been finalised and has been approved by TSIC and the Council. For a copy of the strategic plan, please contact the Council on (03) 6236 3663 or email freightlogistics@tcci.com.au

Infrastructure Australia Submission

After seeking the views of its Members, the Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council forwarded a submission to Infrastructure Australia in regard to Tasmania's transport infrastructure priorities for our roads, railways and ports. A copy of the Council's submission is available from the Council's website www.freightlogistics.com.au or by contacting the Council on (03) 6236 3663 or email freightlogistics@tcci.com.au.

Port of Melbourne Corporation Opens Tasmanian Office

The Port of Melbourne Corporation has recently opened a trade office in Tasmania as it accounts for about 25% of the port's containerized trade and this is forecast to grow.

The Port of Melbourne Corporation has appointed Gary McCarthy as its Trade Facilitation Manager Tasmania and is looking forward to the opportunity of working co-operatively in the Tasmanian market. Gary's primary role is that of developing a better understanding of the Tasmanian markets and the needs of Tasmania's exporters and cargo owners. Gary is based in Hobart.

Review of Australia's Quarantine and Biosecurity Arrangements

In February 2008, the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon. Tony Burke MP announced a comprehensive, independent review of Australia's quarantine and biosecurity arrangements.

This review included, but was not limited to, a wide-ranging assessment of the functions of the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) and Biosecurity Australia. The review was undertaken by an independent panel of experts chaired by Mr. Roger Beale AO, a Senior Associate with the Allen Consulting Group.

After seeking the views of its Members, the Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council forwarded a submission to the Review Panel.

In September 2008, Mr. Beale provided the panel's report - **One Biosecurity: a working partnership**, to the Minister who subsequently released the detailed report in December 2008.

The report makes 84 recommendations which represent the biggest reforms to our biosecurity system in more than a century.

Key recommendations include:

- Establish a new national authority which brings together the major functions of Biosecurity Australia; the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service and parts of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
- Establish a new biosecurity standards commission to assess the biosecurity risk of imports, with greater emphasis on risks to human health and the environment.
- Develop new biosecurity legislation to replace the Quarantine Act which is a century old.
- Appoint an Inspector-General of Biosecurity with broad powers to audit and investigate the Authority's work.
- Establish a new council of experts to advise government.
- States, territories, industry and the Commonwealth must coordinate better to monitor biosecurity after goods and people enter the country, not just at the border.

The panel also recommends an increase in funding and substantial information technology upgrades.

It held 170 meetings with domestic and international stakeholders and received more than 200 submissions.

Mr. Burke said the Federal Government had accepted all 84 recommendations in-principle, but more consultation was needed on how to implement the findings and fund the reforms.

Interim administrative arrangements will take effect from 1 July 2009.

The panel's report and the Federal Government's preliminary response can be accessed from <http://www.daff.gov.au/about/publications/quarantine-biosecurity-report-and-preliminary-response>.

Alternatively, if you would like a hard copy of the report, please contact the Quarantine and Biosecurity Policy Unit on free call 1800 196 192 or email biosecurityreform@daff.gov.au

Global Financial Crisis Affects Tasmania's Infrastructure Projects

The Tasmanian Government announced in December 2008 that the global financial crisis will result in a significant slow-down in economic growth in Tasmania with the estimated financial result for the 2008-09 year being \$197 million worse than originally estimated.

As a result, funding for major infrastructure projects – including the new Royal Hobart Hospital, redevelopment of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, the new Brighton Transport Hub and the Tarkine wilderness road - has been reduced.

\$9.5 million was allocated for the Brighton Transport Hub in 2009-10, however, this has now been reduced to \$5 million. The Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) Brighton Transport Hub Project team has advised that the project is still going ahead, however, DIER is currently working with the Department of Treasury and Finance to determine actual cash flows to see how the budget changes will affect the timing of the project.

Australian Logistics Council Forum

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) invites members of the transport and logistics fraternity in Australia to be part of the premier event for transport and logistics leaders and decision makers who will join together to set the direction for the industry in 2009 at its 7th annual ALC Forum, which will be held in Melbourne on 12 and 13 February 2009. Full details are available from the Council or online at www.austlogistics.com.au.

Jets Transport Express and Tasmania

Jets Transport Express is currently undertaking a feasibility study on the addition of Tasmania to its national road transport network – with a proposed start-up date of September 2009 assuming the feasibility study results are positive. For more information about the feasibility study or to find out more about Jets Transport Express visit their website www.jetstransport.com.au or contact Mark Moss, their National Sales Manager on (08) 8234 4600 or email mark.moss@jetstransport.com.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 December 2008 / January 2009 issue of the magazine – a copy of which has been forwarded with this News Bulletin.

This special edition is devoted almost in its entirety to a discussion of the challenges and opportunities facing the transport and logistics industry in 2009 and beyond. Headlined by the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Anthony Albanese, leaders of the industry's foremost associations and corporations were asked to respond to a series of discussion topics and their responses make for very interesting reading. 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's CEO, Rob McGuire, 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

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Tasmania

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