



OCTOBER 2008

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council was held on 22 July 2008 in Launceston where the Council's Chairman, Philip Petersen, presented the Annual Report for 2007-08 – a copy of which can be found on the Council's website [www.freightlogistics.com.au](http://www.freightlogistics.com.au).

Congratulations to Nigel Carey, Graeme Morrisby, Rosemary Rushton and John Walker who were re-elected to the Board of Management for another two-year period. The Council's Board of Management for 2008-09 comprises of the following:

### Chairman

Philip Petersen

### Air Freight Members:

Scott Cleary

Craig Lockwood

Graeme Morrisby

John Walker

### Sea Freight Members

Nigel Carey

Dean Hart

Tim Hess

Rosemary Rushton

## Kingborough / Huon Valley / Channel Freight Study

The Council has appointed Rural Development Services to conduct a freight study in the Kingborough / Huon Valley / Channel areas. The study aims to collect reliable data about freight flows to and from these communities, to analyse the data and to propose actions to increase efficiency and capacity utilisation of available freight infrastructure and equipment to the Kingborough / Huon Valley / Channel areas. The report is due for completion in December 2008 and will be made available to Members after that.

## Brighton Transport Freight Hub

The Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) formed a Brighton Transport Hub Project Team in April 2008 to oversee construction of the Hub. DIER has also established an Industry Reference Group to receive the views of industry in terms of the design and use of the Hub – and the Council is represented on the Industry Reference Group.

The initial meeting of the Brighton Transport Hub Industry Reference Group was held on 10 September 2008. The Industry Reference Group was advised of progress made to date on the Transport Hub and was provided with details of the selected site which is west of the current Brighton Industrial Estate. The next six months will be spent on obtaining the necessary rezoning, development application, Aboriginal Heritage and environmental approvals – as well as land acquisitions. Construction is due to commence in March 2009 with a Stage One completion date of May 2010. Amongst the key decisions that the State Government needs to make in the near future are who will be appointed in the key roles of manager and owner of the Transport Hub. The next meeting of the Industry Reference Group will be held on 7 November 2008.

## New Members Welcome

The Council has decided that there will be no annual subscription for the 2008-09 financial year (and for new members the only cost is a joining fee of \$25 plus GST). The Council hopes to significantly increase its membership numbers and will then be representing the views of a much wider cross representation of the transport and logistics industry in Tasmania than is currently the case. If you know someone who may benefit in becoming a Member, please contact the Council on (03) 6236 3663 or email [freightlogistics@tcci.com.au](mailto:freightlogistics@tcci.com.au).

### **Pacific National's Tasmanian Rail Operations Sale Update**

The sale of Pacific National's Tasmanian rail operations is continuing. Asciano has selected several bidders for Pacific National's Tasmania business to progress to the next stage and a new owner could be found by the end of October 2008 – although one of the bidders, Chas Kelly, has recently withdrawn from the process.

"The successful bidders have demonstrated that they have an understanding of the value of the business as a going concern and are serious about purchasing the company," Asciano said. "The bidders will now conduct their own due diligence with access to comprehensive information on the assets, liabilities, contracts and operations of the company. Following this, bidders will be asked to submit their binding offers for consideration."

### **Infrastructure Australia Submission**

The Council recently contacted all Members, all Local Government Councils and other key stakeholders in the Tasmanian transport and logistics community to advise them of their opportunity to have their say in the Federal Government's long term plans to fix and modernise the nation's critical economic infrastructure - our roads, railways, ports, water and energy utilities and telecommunications – by submitting their project ideas to Infrastructure Australia for evaluation and possible inclusion on the National Infrastructure Priority List - the first of which will be handed to the Council of Australian Governments in March 2009.

Australia's national transport infrastructure – including its roads, rail, ports and airports – is central to our future growth and prosperity and is a key driver of our economic competitiveness. As an island community, transport and particularly our air and sea links are critically important to Tasmania. Accordingly, the Council made its own submission to Infrastructure Australia in regard to Tasmania's transport infrastructure priorities in regard to Tasmanian roads, railways and the vital Melbourne – Devonport sea link. A full copy of the Council's submission to Infrastructure Australia can be found on the Council's website [www.freightlogistics.com.au](http://www.freightlogistics.com.au).

### **New Heavy Vehicle Road Transport Laws**

The Tasmanian Government has been working towards developing a series of reforms to heavy vehicle road transport laws based on legislation prepared by the National Transport Commission (NTC), in collaboration with the State and Commonwealth Governments. They aim to achieve improved nationally agreed outcomes in terms of road transport safety, productivity, asset protection and environmental reforms.

The first installment of Tasmania's reforms is contained in the *Heavy Vehicle Road Transport Bill 2008*, which is due to be tabled in Parliament by the end of the year. The Bill introduces a nationally consistent and more effective and equitable scheme for encouraging compliance with road transport laws and for the enforcement of those laws.

Chain of Responsibility provisions in the Bill impose obligations on all parties in the transport chain, and all individuals in the corporate chain of command, to either take reasonable steps to prevent a breach of road transport laws, or to not encourage or coerce others to contravene those laws. The Chain of Responsibility provisions in this Bill will oblige all parties in the chain to take positive steps to prevent breaches of mass, dimension and loading laws, thereby reducing pressures on on-road parties and ultimately leading to improved compliance and safer roads. The Bill provides a nationally agreed model that will, when implemented, remove many of the current regulatory variations between the jurisdictions and enable the Chain of Responsibility requirements to be applied consistently across all jurisdictions. In States that have already implemented the Bill, this has led to improved compliance with road transport laws, the fairer application of responsibility along the road transport chain, better enforcement tools that enable targeting of higher risk offences and systematic offenders and the minimisation of opportunities for those who are not complying with the requirements to gain an unfair competitive edge over those who are prepared to operate within the law. It is expected that the reforms will have similar benefits for Tasmania.

The Bill does not contain provisions dealing with Fatigue Management, nor the introduction of the Intelligent Access Program in Tasmania. These matters will be the subject of further reforms in the New Year.

### **Export Practices Workshop**

The Tasmanian Government's Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the Australian Institute of Export, Tasmania is conducting a two-day "Export Practises – Practical Skills for Exporters" workshop on 18 and 19 November 2008 at the Tamar Valley Resort, Grindelwald.

The workshop is designed to provide exporters with the latest information that they can apply directly to their business to help make the export process easier.

The workshop facilitators have extensive industry experience and are currently working within the industry. This is your opportunity to access information on the following:

- Export Documentation – work with an experienced freight forwarder to access information on Incoterms, quoting, export logistics, packaging and documentation procedures.
- International Law – an international lawyer will examine international contracts, contracts of carriage, international payments and insurance.
- Banking and Finance – find out all about currency risk management, fees, charges and international payment methods including documentary collections.
- Marine Insurance – learn about the various types of policies that mitigate physical risk to your products.

The workshop is designed for those involved in various aspects of the export transaction. It will be of interest to you if you are a marketing manager, production manager or supervisor. The two-day workshop including lunch, morning and afternoon tea each day is only \$295 per person including GST. The second person from the same business can attend for only \$195 including GST (although there are limited spaces for a second person). Price includes a copy of the Australian Export Handbook. Registrations close on 3 November 2008.

For more information about this workshop please contact Caleb Wright, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, on telephone: 03 6336 2263 or email [caleb.wright@development.tas.gov.au](mailto:caleb.wright@development.tas.gov.au).

### **Export Market Development Grants**

Businesses applying for an Export Market Development Grant (EMDG) in the 2008-09 grant year will be able to take advantage of new scheme rules. Legislation has been passed to give effect to a number of changes to the EMDG scheme to update and revitalise it.

The changes apply to applications lodged from 1 July 2009 and export promotion expenditure incurred from 1 July 2008. This means that businesses now incurring expenses in the 2008-09 grant year and intending to apply for EMDG from 1 July 2009 will be able to take advantage of new scheme rules.

The key changes include:

- Increasing the maximum grant by \$50,000 to \$200,000.
- Lifting the maximum turnover limit from \$30 million to \$50 million.
- Reducing the minimum expenditure threshold by \$5,000 to \$10,000.
- Allowing costs of patenting products overseas to be eligible for EMDG support.
- Increasing the limit on the number of grants able to be received by a business from seven to eight.
- Making the scheme more accessible to services exporters by replacing the current list of eligible internal and external services with a new 'non-tourism services' category which will provide for all services supplied to foreign residents whether delivered inside or outside of Australia to be eligible unless specified in the EMDG Act Regulations.
- Allowing State, Territory and regional economic development and industry bodies promoting Australia's exports, including tourism bodies, to access the scheme.
- Introducing performance measures into the scheme for those applicants who have already received two grants (exceptions apply for approved bodies and approved trading houses).

For more information, telephone Austrade on 13 28 78 and ask for your local EMDG office.

## Strategic Plan

The Council has approved its Strategic Plan for 2008-09 and 2009-10. The Plan outlines the Council's objectives for the next two years, identifying key issues and strategies to be undertaken by the Council in that time. A summary of the Strategic Plan can be obtained from the Council's website [www.freightlogistics.com.au](http://www.freightlogistics.com.au) or a full copy of the Strategic Plan can be obtained by contacting the Council on (03) 6236 3663 or email on [freightlogistics@tcci.com.au](mailto:freightlogistics@tcci.com.au).

## New Export Crates

If you have a problem with crating your goods to market, it may be worth considering contacting Rebul Packaging Pty Ltd. Rebul's award-winning crating is used by many freight forwarders as a more simple, affordable and convenient way to ensure the best protection of their client's delicate, valuable and heavy export freight.

- Better value, strength and protection compared to wooden crates
- Avoids the need for fumigation, without risk of time delays or penalties
- Fast 1-2 day turnaround, delivered anywhere in Australia
- Simple packing/unpacking without the need for any tools
- Much lighter crating – airfreight
- No minimum order quantity, any crate dimensions – delivered when you need it.

For more information, contact Rebul Packaging Pty Ltd on (07) 3255 6480 or email [enquiries@rebul.com.au](mailto:enquiries@rebul.com.au) or check their website on [www.rebul.com.au](http://www.rebul.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 copies of the August / September 2008 and October / November 2008 issues of the magazine – which have been forwarded with this News Bulletin. We hope you enjoy the magazines.

## Members Contributions

The Council wants to ensure that it is relevant to the needs of its Members and wants to know about significant freight logistic issues that are impacting on your businesses. 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](mailto:freightlogistics@tcci.com.au). If Members have an article that they would like to contribute to the News Bulletin, then we would be only too pleased to discuss the subject. Please contact the Council with any comments, suggestions or articles

## 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,  
Regional Development and Local Government



Tasmania  
Explore the possibilities



TCCI  
Invigorating Business