



JANUARY 2008

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 2008. Thank you for all your support in 2007 and we look forward to working with you in 2008.

Future of Pacific National Rail Services in Tasmania

Pacific National, the rail operator in Tasmania, has advised the Australian Stock Exchange through its parent company, Asciano, that it is looking to close or sell its intermodal business in Tasmania – because it is underperforming and unsustainable in the long term.

In July 2007 Pacific National closed its freight operations between Devonport and Bell Bay because they were not profitable.

Pacific National has advised that it would continue its profitable business carrying cement between Railton and Devonport and copper concentrates from the West Coast.

However, the Tasmanian Minister for Infrastructure, Jim Cox MHA, believes that the Government has a legally binding ten-year agreement with Pacific National that it would run its rail service while the Federal and Tasmanian Governments spent \$118 million on upgrading the infrastructure. The agreement contains strict clauses which prevent Pacific National from simply walking away from the State.

Through the rail rescue package, the Tasmanian Government secured ownership of Tasmania's rail infrastructure which is subject to open-access – which means any other freight operator can run trains on the Tasmanian rail freight network. Queensland Rail has been mentioned as a possible replacement for Pacific national if it pulls out of container freight services in Tasmania.

Labor's Landslide Win Means Road and Rail Funding Bonanza in Tasmania

The newly elected Federal Labor Government made pre-election promises totalling over \$350 million for road and rail funding in Tasmania. The Rudd Government has promised:

- \$131 million of the \$164 million it will cost to build the Midland Highway bypass of Pontville and Brighton and upgrading the East Derwent Highway.
- \$11 million of the urgently-needed \$14 million upgrade of the existing Bridgewater Bridge.
- \$5 million for the design of stage two of Hobart's northern approaches modernisation, including planning the second Midland Highway bypass extension from Pontville to Bagdad and a replacement Bridgewater Bridge.
- \$56 million to help build the new \$79 million Brighton road and rail freight transport hub.
- \$30 million to rebuild the commercial rail line from New Norfolk to Karanja.
- \$24 million to straighten and realign the main north-south rail track around Rhyndaston.
- \$15 million to help build the new \$33.5 million Kingston by-pass.
- \$31.6 million for the north-south rail line.
- \$30 million to upgrade the rail line from Burnie to Wiltshire.
- \$11.7 million to upgrade West Coast railways for mining operations.
- \$34 million investment in north-east freight roads.
- \$4.5 million for upgrade work on the Midland Highway.
- \$5.2 million for an upgrade of the Bell Bay transport intermodal.

Labor has also pledged to extend Tasmania's AusLink national road network to include the Brooker Highway from Granton into central Hobart and the Tasman Highway from Hobart port to Hobart Airport, making these roads eligible for Federal road funding.



2007 Tasmanian Export Awards Winners

Congratulations to the following organisations / companies who were announced as winners of their categories at the Tasmanian Export Awards in October 2007:

- Agribusiness Award – Tasman Group Services
- Emerging Exporter Award – Abalone Farms Australia
- Education Award - St Michael's Collegiate School
- Information and Communications Technology Award – The Learning Edge International
- Large Advanced Manufacturer Award – Australian Weaving Mills
- Regional Exporter Award – Australian Honey Products
- Services Award - Roaring 40s Renewable Energy
- Small to Medium Manufacturer Award – Liferaft Systems Australia
- Small Business Award – Lightning Production International

Robert Clifford OA was awarded the Tasmanian Award for Export leadership for his contribution to the export industry in Tasmania.

It is worth noting that in the year to July 2007, the ABS reported that Tasmanian exports grew by an outstanding 26 per cent to a record \$3.72 billion.

The nine companies / organisations were National Finalists in the 2007 Australian Export Awards, the winners of which were announced at a Gala Dinner and Awards Presentation in Brisbane in November 2007 with Liferaft Systems Australia being announced as the national winner of the 2007 Australian Small to Medium Manufacturer Export Award.

Australian Logistics Council Forum

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) invites members of the transport and logistics fraternity in Australia to be part of a national agenda setting process at its 6th annual ALC Forum, which will be held in Canberra on 14 and 15 February 2008. Full details are included in a brochure which is available from the Council or online at www.austlogistics.com.au.

Careers in T&L

The Transport Industry Workforce Advisory Group (TIWAG) has been kept busy over the past few months preparing for the release of two exciting tools designed to showcase the transport and logistics industry (T&L). These tools will assist to promote T&L as an industry of choice and highlight the diverse career pathways it has to offer.

The first product 'Get into T&L DVD' was released late in 2007 to showcase the diverse career options offered in T&L through road, rail, sea, and air. The seven minute production has been designed to appeal to a wide range of viewers, from students and parents at career expos through to boardroom executives. While featuring a dynamic soundtrack and introduction from Hal Morris from the Australian Logistics Council, the DVD is not reliant on audio for effective use so can be used in a variety of settings. It is anticipated that this tool will be widely used by government, education, industry, and employment providers to show the public that T&L careers can take you places. Copies of the DVD are available from the Council.

The second tool, which is due for publication in early 2008, is a *Career Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* book on T&L. The *Career FAQ* series currently comprises of 43 titles, with new editions being released regularly. Once published, the T&L book will be distributed to over 400 bookstores nationally, as well as over 2,000 libraries and to every school career advisor within Australia. This full colour book will give students, and those seeking a career change, an insight into the exciting and varied opportunities available within T&L. For more information on this series, visit www.careerfaqs.com.au.

Hobart International Airport Sale

The Tasmanian Government has agreed to sell the Hobart international Airport to a consortium whose partners are Macquarie Capital Group Limited, Macquarie Global Infrastructure Fund III and Tasmania's Retirement Benefits Fund. The sale is expected to be completed by the end of January 2008.

Transport Amongst Deadliest Industries

It is four times more likely that a worker dies in the transport industry than the average Australian industry, the Australian Logistics Council (ALC) chief executive, Hal Morris, claimed at a National Transport and Logistics Safety Summit in Melbourne in October 2007.

Transporters will aim to cut workplace deaths and injuries by half as part of aspiration safety targets to go before industry. But delegates at the Safety Summit set the bar even higher, with a consensus to adopt Linfox's 'Vision Zero' program aimed at eliminating all workplace incidents.

The group of more than 100 industry representatives also agreed to the need for a national body to drive safety initiatives across the transport and logistics sector, similar to the cooperative Transport Industry Safety Group (TISG) successfully established in Victoria.

The unfunded TISG, a meeting that includes VicRoads, police, the State Coroner and transport representatives, won praise for the initiatives it has put in place in Victoria.

Most delegates believed the concept should go national, and include a national transport safety charter for industry operators.

The summit convenors, the National Transport Commission and the Australian Logistics Council, released a communiqué calling for a 50 percent reduction of deaths and injuries based on 2002 figures.

But delegates threw their support behind the Linfox campaign which, along with the ambitious zero percent target, also includes an annual stop work program which all Linfox staff throughout the region participate in to be educated on safety initiatives.

Linfox's Tony Duhre says the industry should "share shamelessly and steal shamelessly when it comes to safety."

The ALC has called for greater research into transport safety. It says a lack of current data across the entire logistics sector, including in-house activities, is hampering work to improve workplace safety.

Having Difficulty Attracting and Retaining Employees?

A simple to use kit to help Tasmanian businesses create modern employment and workplace practices – including information to assist small businesses attract and retain employees - was recently launched by the Tasmanian Government.

The 'Better Workplaces Resources Kit' has been developed for small-to-medium businesses, to help them create modern employment and workplace practices.

The kit contains practical tools such as checklists, templates, fact sheets, flowcharts and case studies on a range of human resources issues.

Workforce planning, recruitment, training, staff retention, performance management and leadership are just some of the topics covered in the kit.

Better staff and better managers create better workplaces. Tasmanian businesses, particularly those who do not have a dedicated HR person, are going to benefit immensely from this new resource.

The Department of Economic Development is providing the 'Better Workplaces Resources Kit' free of charge to businesses, as part of a broad strategic focus to help Tasmanian workplaces attract and retain people and increase productivity.

Businesses are encouraged to make use of these free resources, because it will make a great deal of difference to their employees and their business.

A free of charge copy of the 'Better Workplaces Resource Kit' is available online at <http://www.development.tas.gov.au/betterworkplaces> or by phoning 1800 440 026 or emailing businesspoint@development.tas.gov.au.

Small Shipments of Frozen Cargo to Asia

OOCL has commenced a weekly less than container load service for frozen cargo to Hong Kong and Tokyo from both Melbourne and Sydney on an alternating basis. Exporters of frozen cargoes in the past have had to either use airfreight with its higher cost structure or have needed to freight full sea freight container loads which again may not be economical. Whilst the service is currently limited to hard frozen product, it may be extended to chilled products at a later date.

OOCL offers a service from various parts of Tasmania to either Melbourne or Sydney to connect with the service to Hong Kong and Tokyo.

Customers can access this service by phoning OOCL's Customer Service Team on 1300 662 573 or contacting OOCL's Tasmanian State Manager, Mike Chadwick, on 0402 315 219 or michael.chadwick@oocl.com.

Toll and Virgin Blue Freight

Toll has reached an in-principle agreement with Virgin Blue Airlines for exclusive access to all freight capacity in Virgin Blue and Pacific Blue aircraft – with all permanent employees at its operational centres around Australia (including Hobart and Launceston) being offered ongoing employment with Toll.

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 October / November 2007 and the December 2007 / January 2008 issues of the magazine – copies of which have been forwarded with this News Bulletin. We hope you enjoy the magazines.

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:

