



Tasmanian Shipping Inquiry
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

To the Chairman and Commissioners

The Cradle Coast Authority is a regional body established by the nine local governments of northwest Tasmania to deal with issues facing the region as a whole, across council boundaries, including access to the region, planning for infrastructure needs and economic development activities.

In keeping with this role the Authority has been involved in a variety of discussions around the future of transport and access on Bass Strait. In June the Authority convened its own examination of the key issues and factors influencing the costs and operations of transport links, with a forum involving a number of industries and sectors involved in shipping, transport and tourism.

Access to the State and this area is crucial to the future of a range of communities and businesses in the Cradle Coast region, and the broader impact of any changes to the current arrangements must be given due consideration.

The original subsidies were introduced to create equity for Tasmanians in relation to the other States as part of Federation, and everything must be done to encourage this position of equity into the future.

In August the Board of the Authority, with the support of its nine councils, endorsed three key positions in relation to Bass Strait transport and access which is the need for -

- A long term logistics plan for Tasmania, covering Bass Strait and international shipping and the port, road and rail systems that support them, including road and rail corridors linking Burnie to the West Coast and Smithton, and a long term shipping solution for King Island;
- Continuation of the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme, and extension to include northbound export freight and southbound freight associated with imported goods used in manufacturing of products for export, at least until direct international shipping is restored;
- Continuation of the Bass Strait Passenger Vehicle Equalisation Scheme, and development of a strategy to double sea passenger arrivals to the State over the next decade

The Cradle Coast region and Tasmania as a whole rely totally on consistent sea freight links with the rest of the country and international markets. We would urge the Commission to be mindful of the importance of maintaining and strengthening these vital connections through its recommendations.

The Authority is also contributing to a separate joint submission with the Tourism Industry Council of Tasmania and Tourism and Transport Forum specifically focussing on tourism issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to have input on this important issue.

Yours Sincerely

Roger Jaensch
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER